

COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE!

THE SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO NEW PRODUCTS

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HOME THEATER

Learn How OLED & 4K Ultra HD
TVs Make All The Difference



DIGITAL IMAGING

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COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Match A Tablet's Capabilities With
Your Lifestyle Needs



GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

Discover What's New On
The Latest Gaming Consoles

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FirstGlimpse

Volume 10 Issue 8



On Our Cover

Home Theater Q&A:
Cover The Basics

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Learn About Features & Capabilities
To Find The Right Tablet

Take Command Of Your Entertainment
With New Game Consoles

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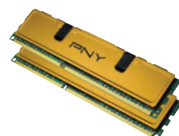
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A/V Receiver Settings May Improve Your HT Audio

Use Sound Modes

You can change the way your movies, music, and games sound with your surround sound system's various audio processing modes. This is a look at some of the settings you may encounter, including examples from real-world A/V receivers.

HOME THEATER

Some A/V receivers have special processing modes for compressed media such as MP3 files and YouTube video clips.



By Type Of Audio

Some A/V receivers offer various sound modes for specific types of audio. For instance, its movie settings may give you sound modes for dramas, spectacle blockbusters, and more. Likewise, its music modes may make songs sound like they're being played in an arena, pump up the bass of dance music, and so on.

By Technology

Your receiver might let you choose processing technologies by name. As an example, if your game console produces Dolby Pro Logic II sound, you should set your receiver accordingly. This mode and others, such as DTS Neo, alter movie, music, and game audio to fit the number of speakers you have in your system.

Enhance It

Some A/V receivers have special processing modes for media files that have been heavily compressed, such as MP3 files and YouTube video clips. These enhancement modes try to bring out parts of the audio typically lost in popular compressed file formats, sometimes making it sound better and clearer.

Direct Approach

Of course, the best audio processing just might be none at all. Depending on your speakers, and the sound quality of your media, you might get the best-sounding audio by turning your receiver's sound processing completely off (sometimes called direct mode), especially for Blu-rays and well-mastered DVDs/CDs.

The Broad Range Of TV Features

Get The Right HDTV

The phrase “you get what you pay for” rings true when you’re shopping for an HDTV. There are plenty of capabilities you may find to be worth a little extra investment. Here’s a look at typical high-end, mid-range, and entry-level features.

HOME THEATER

There are plenty of capabilities worth a little extra investment, such as 4K Ultra HD resolution or OLED.



Top TVs

- High-end TVs may have 4K Ultra HD resolution—four times the detail of regular HD 1080p
- Smart TV apps for online movies, music, social networking, and more
- 65 inches or larger screens; memory card and USB drive support
- Optimal video technologies such as OLED for lifelike color or LED local dimming for higher contrast

Mid-Level Models

- Mid-range TVs may offer built-in or downloadable apps and full Web browsing over Wi-Fi or Ethernet
- At mid-level prices, you can buy an LED TV with edge backlighting and a 120Hz screen refresh rate
- May have enough 1080p inputs to connect a few components, such as a disc player, game console, and set-top box

Entry-Level Entertainment

- Low-cost TVs may have 40-inch or smaller screens and 720p resolution
- They don't offer smart TV apps, 3D, or high LCD/LED refresh rates
- Included video technologies are good, but they don't match the advanced performance of high-end TVs
- LCD and certain plasma TVs can be inexpensive, although they may use more energy than an LED

What's The Difference?

HDTV Screen Types

To pinpoint the best type of HDTV for your needs, it helps to know a little bit about the ways they create such beautiful images. Here's a look at each screen technology's strengths and suitabilities.

HOME THEATER



OLED TVs

This new type of TV display technology uses light-emitting diodes containing carbon, oxygen, and other organic elements.

- Can offer 4K Ultra HD resolution
- Can display the most colors
- High brightness and amazingly clear dark detail (high contrast)
- Very thin and lightweight
- Consume less power than other types of TVs

LED TVs

An LED TV is actually a type of LCD (liquid-crystal display). Instead of a fluorescent backlight, however, its light comes from LEDs behind (full-array or full-matrix) or around the screen (edge-lit).

- Available in 4K Ultra HD
- Use less electricity than most TVs
- Can be thinner than most TVs
- Great dark details in models with local dimming

Older TV Types

Plasma TVs electrically charge small cells that contain ionized gas. Plasmas are known for deep black colors, smooth onscreen motion, and cost-efficient large screen sizes.

LCD TVs are similar to computer screens, but they're bigger and easier to view at an angle. LCDs are inexpensive, and they consume a little less power than plasma TVs.

You've Got To See These In Person

OLED TVs

One thing you simply must see in a store to appreciate is a new OLED TV. The technology, finally available in popular screen sizes, produces a bold, true-to-life picture in a thin, beautiful package.

HOME THEATER



Simply Amazing Picture Quality

Unlike other TV technologies, OLEDs can produce every color in the visible light spectrum. They're also known for their excellent brightness and contrast (dark details look clear on an OLED screen).

As a result, OLED TVs can have picture quality that's extremely lifelike.

Smooth Motion & Fine Detail

OLED TVs have fast refresh rates, which helps to make onscreen motion blur-free. They also have a very wide viewing angle, so you can see a great picture from anywhere in the room. Some OLEDs even come with 4K Ultra HD resolution for the ultimate home theater experience.

A Light & Airy Presence

An OLED TV can have a very thin screen panel—even thinner than an LED TV. Some early models even feature an artistically curved screen.

OLEDs may also be light in weight and easy to mount on a wall. What's more, they're incredibly energy-efficient.

How OLED TVs Work

Organic light-emitting diode TVs are bigger versions of the colorful screens found in top smartphones. Their LEDs are called "organic" because they contain elements such as carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen. OLEDs glow brightly, so they don't need a backlight.

On-Demand Video & Music From The Web

Streaming Media

Home theater connectivity goes beyond the devices you hook up to your HDTV. By supplementing your cable, satellite, or over-the-air programming with what's available via the Web, there's almost no limit to what you can watch, stream, and download.

HOME THEATER

There's almost no limit to what you can watch, stream, and download.



Get Instant Entertainment

- A Web-capable TV, game console, or other device can stream media over Wi-Fi or Ethernet.
- Using apps, you can enjoy Internet video and music, plus news, weather, and social media.
- Some HDTVs and consoles include a full Web browser that's similar to what you'd use on your PC. This lets you access more online content than their apps provide.

Make The Most Of Apps

- Not all Web-connected devices offer the same apps, but there's a wide variety to suit your needs.
- Popular media services such as Netflix and Hulu Plus are available on most connected products, but you may need a subscription or pay to watch content.
- Download other apps to connect to podcasts, Web videos, games, flight information, and Internet radio.

Sound Streamers

- Some home theater audio systems' A/V receiver can connect to satellite or HD radio.
- Listen to any song at any time through your HT speakers with a system that supports Internet radio stations or streaming services.
- Select home theater audio systems can also stream Web videos to your HDTV using pre-installed apps.

How To Take Your Home Theater Online

Set Up Smart TV Apps

Smart home theater devices—such as TVs, A/V receivers, and Blu-ray players—come with on-screen apps that let you tap into online services including Netflix, Pandora, and Hulu Plus. Here's what you should know in order to make the connection.

HOME THEATER

Smart TV apps let you tap into on-line services including Netflix, Pandora, and Hulu Plus.



Lay The Groundwork

If you haven't yet bought a smart device, ask a store associate about specific model capabilities. For example, some older devices might offer only a limited selection of YouTube videos or be unable to display photos in Facebook posts. Speaking of Facebook (and services such as Netflix and Amazon Instant Video), you'll need to have an existing account set up before you can use that app on your TV.

For smooth video streaming from the Internet, a smart home theater device requires a fast link to a broadband connection. In other words, you'll need to connect it to your home network router with Ethernet cable, powerline adapters, or Wi-Fi N or AC (not Wi-Fi G, B, or A).

Enjoy Web Content On The Big Screen

To help your TV or other smart HT device establish communication with your network and the Internet, you may need to adjust the device's network settings using its remote. If you're setting up a Wi-Fi link to your smart device, you'll probably have to enter your network's passphrase. Restart your router, modem, and smart device once or twice to help them recognize each other. Once your smart device detects a connection to the Web, it may begin to update its firmware. Let it do so, and then restart it. Finally, launch an app on your TV using the smart device's remote. If it gives you a short code to enter on a certain Web page, you'll need to do that via a computer. After a few minutes (and perhaps another smart device restart) the app should begin to work.

A Home Theater Helps You Intensify Gameplay

Whether you're dodging bad guys in the desert, racing for the finish line, or simply lining up a chip shot, gaming is meant to be a sensory experience. Enhance your home theater with the right components, and you'll turbocharge your gameplay.

HOME THEATER

Enhance your home theater with the right components, and you'll turbocharge your gameplay.



Get In The Game

Create a more exciting gaming environment by playing on a big screen.

- Add lifelike quality to every game with a big TV or projector screen.
- Make it easy for a large group of players to see a clear picture with a TV that has a wide viewing angle.
- Put on 3D eyewear to play thrilling, three-dimensional games with your compatible TV or projector.

Organize Accessories

Well-designed gaming furniture can keep your gear uncluttered.

- Use a universal storage mount to rack up games and controllers, as well as guitars, steering wheels, gun attachments, and other accessories.
- Organize items for your game console in racks and shelving systems.
- Stow accessories in gaming chairs that include compartments.

Feel Every Sound

Gaming action can sound amazing through surround sound speakers.

- Throw yourself into the game world with a 5.1- or 7.1-channel audio system.
- Feel the thumping beats in sports and action games with a subwoofer.
- Free up more room for motion gaming by mounting your speakers on your walls.

Smart HT Devices Bring Home The Fun

TV Apps

Sights, sounds, and social interaction—that's what you can find with a smart HT device and a broadband connection. A smart TV, Blu-ray player, HTPC, or other device may come with (or let you download) popular apps such as the ones below.

HOME THEATER

Various smart HT devices may support services such as:



Sights, sounds, and social interaction—that's what you can find with a smart home theater device.



Netflix

Tap into this popular subscription service for thousands of streaming, full-length HD movies, TV series, and kids' shows.

YouTube

From the latest viral videos to how-to tutorials, and from documentaries to musical performances, YouTube has it.

Pandora Radio

Internet radio attuned to your personal taste. Enter a favorite song or artist, and Pandora will stream similar music to you.

Facebook

Keep in touch with friends and family members through Facebook. Post status updates, share your pics, and send private messages.

Twitter

Follow your favorite artists, public figures, and breaking news sources. Post brief "tweets" to your own followers.

Skype

With a Web cam/microphone accessory, usually sold separately, you can turn your TV into a futuristic video phone.

Giant Entertainment Without A Giant Price

Projector Possibilities

A home theater projector can give you a huge picture at a much lower cost than a massive HDTV. A big screen is great for movies, naturally, but also for other forms of entertainment, too. Below are some examples of uses for a well-connected projector.

HOME THEATER

Some models can project a picture that's 12 times larger than a 40-inch HDTV.



Cable Or Satellite

An alternative to big-screen HDTVs, projectors are ideal for watching your cable or satellite TV programming in bigger-than-life HD. Some models can project a picture that's 12X larger than a 40-inch HDTV, letting you transform your favorite TV shows and sports into cinematic events.

Computers

Projectors that offer a PC input can expand your entertainment options beyond what you currently enjoy. Everyone can gather in the living room to watch family home movies, school projects, and slideshows that are stored on your computer. What's more, any Internet content will also be at your disposal.

Game Consoles

Hook up your game console to your projector, and you can immerse yourself in another world. No matter the game genre, every member of the family will get a kick out of a mega-sized gaming experience. And with a projector that has a high brightness rating, such as 2,000 lumens, you won't even need to darken the room.

Portable Devices

You can make the most of your media-packed portable devices, such as your smartphone, tablet, or laptop, with a projector that sports a compatible dock or input. Rather than be limited by a device's small screen, you can simply connect, project, and select the media you want to play using your device or the projector's remote control.

A Large Screen Puts The 'Theater' in Home Theater

Big TV Advantages

The most obvious advantage of a bigger TV—one with a 60-inch or larger screen size—is the fact that it's, well, big. We'd all love our entertainment to be bigger than life, and for good reasons. Below we cover some of the most compelling ones.

HOME THEATER



Upgrade To 4K

HDTVs with big screens now have a new way to wow you—with the increased sharpness and clarity of 4K Ultra HD. Packing four times the number of pixels (picture elements) of regular 1080p HD, a 4K TV can display unparalleled detail. And at the moment, 4K only comes in bigger screen sizes.

Enjoy It In 3D

The best way to enjoy 3D entertainment is with a big TV. Not only does a large screen have an undeniable presence, but it's also best for your field of vision. Sitting in front of a big 3D HDTV will dominate your view like a movie theater screen. With no prominent screen boundaries, 3D media will take you to a new level of immersion.

Smart TV Features

Smart TV features use Internet connectivity to go beyond what you thought a TV could do. Consider instant connections to your favorite video streaming services and social networking sites, right from your couch. Stream your own music and movies straight from your PC, or even surf the Web on the same, big screen.

Simply In Awe

Fantasy armies clash on horseback, and those horses look life-sized. Lasers sizzle across space in colossal, sci-fi battle. Sports and racing are so in-your-face that you forget that you're sitting in your living room. Imagine the fun of immersing your family in motion gaming with a monster screen and a surround-sound system.

Connect Media Devices To Your HT Sound System

Depending on the capabilities of your home theater's A/V receiver—the heart of your audio system—you may have entertainment options you haven't even considered. Read on to learn how to connect different media sources to your A/V receiver.

HOME THEATER

Some A/V receivers allow you to turn your smartphone or tablet into a universal remote using a free app.



Docks

Lots of A/V receivers support docks, which are recharging cradles with advanced connections for certain MP3 players. Not only can a dock feed your player's music to your HT sound system, but perhaps also your video and photos to your HDTV. A dock may come with a receiver or be sold separately.

Online Media

If your sound system's receiver supports Ethernet cable or wireless networking, perhaps with an optional adapter, you may be able to take it online. Many A/V receivers support Internet radio stations, streaming video services, and more. That means a bountiful variety of music, movies, and other entertainment.

A Smart Remote

Some receivers allow you to turn your smartphone or tablet into a universal remote that can control most or all of your home theater's functions, including volume, sound input, and more. The receiver manufacturer may offer an app you can download and install on your smartphone or tablet.

Other Devices

If your tablet, phone, MP3 player, portable game system or other gadget has a headphone jack, you can channel its audio into your home theater's sound system. Simply plug it into one of the receiver's inputs, such as an auxiliary port, with an audio cable and/or adapter. Some receivers also allow wireless hookups via Bluetooth.

How To Get Big Sound In A Small Space

Soundbar Synergy

Your flat-panel HDTV is a streamlined device that can really impress, so why not pair it with a slim soundbar? This sleek speaker bar simulates surround sound from a single unit. A soundbar is easy to set up, and it's a great choice for an oddly shaped or small room.

HOME THEATER



From One, Many

A soundbar looks like an unusually long speaker unit. It's intended to lie horizontally just below or above your HDTV screen. Inside a soundbar cabinet is an array of left, right, and center speakers. Using techniques such as reflecting off your walls, a soundbar can vividly simulate surround sound. In fact, in most cases, it can fool your ears into "hearing" side and rear speakers that aren't there. Many soundbars come with a wired or wireless subwoofer for deep bass.

Zero-Hassle Setup

It's really easy to install a soundbar, especially when you compare it to a traditional, multi-speaker surround-sound system. Connect one or two cables, and you're done. Because a soundbar doesn't require rear or side speakers, you won't need to string speaker wires across your room, tuck them under your baseboards, or route them through your walls. And speaking of your walls, you won't need to drill holes around the room to mount multiple speakers.

Make Any Room An HT

Some rooms just aren't good candidates for a traditional surround-sound setup, which works best when you place its four or six satellite speakers the same distance from your seat. If your home theater is irregularly shaped, or if there's a wall or staircase behind your sofa, it could be difficult to mount surround speakers for optimal audio. A soundbar doesn't have this disadvantage—it can simulate multichannel audio convincingly in most types of rooms.

Why It's Smart To Buy HT Devices In A Store

Shop In Person

Certain things are just better to shop for in a real, bricks-and-mortar store. Home theater devices are definitely on this list. Besides the fact that a store has helpful staff to answer your questions, there are many other practical reasons to shop in the real world.

HOME THEATER

Certain things are just better to shop for in a real, bricks-and-mortar store.



HDTVs

You'll spend many hours gazing at your new HDTV, so you'd better be happy with its picture quality before you buy it. An electronics store gives you an opportunity to see a TV's picture first-hand, and to compare it to other models and brands. Moreover, buying locally reduces the chance of damage to the TV on its way to your home.

Speaker Systems

Like a TV, a sound system is another part of your home theater you should try before you buy. An electronics store may let you hear how different speakers sound, as good audio quality is somewhat subjective. You'll also get a feel for how large a subwoofer or floorstanding speaker will seem once you get it home.

Headphones

Comfort is crucial in a pair of home theater headphones, as you'll probably be wearing them for a few hours at a time. As you try on various headphones for fit, you can also get a feel for each pair's sound quality. For wireless 'phones, make sure that their audio doesn't suffer from outside interference.

Other Reasons

The most obvious benefit to shopping locally is the fact that you can often take your purchase home right away instead of waiting for a shipment. Also, more and more states are requiring online retailers to collect sales tax. Add in shipping charges, and buying online may no longer be the money-saving option it once was.

Make Your Existing Sound System More Impressive

Upgrade Your 5.1

Remember how your surround-sound system first sounded compared to your TV speakers? Some new components can make your 5.1-channel setup even better. If it's modest or showing its age, you can easily increase its audio quality and feature set.

HOME THEATER



A Receiver Transplant

A new A/V receiver could bring a wealth of new entertainment options to your home theater. For example, new models come with smart apps that let you watch online video from Netflix, YouTube, and more. If your existing receiver doesn't decode Blu-ray sound formats such as DTS-HD Master Audio and Dolby TrueHD, a new unit can. A new receiver may also support more speakers, higher volume without distortion, and satellite or HD radio.

Full-Range Speakers

If your existing 5.1 system was an HTiB (home theater in a box), its satellite (surround) speakers may be relatively small and unable to reproduce lower frequency sounds. Swap those satellites for floorstanding speakers, which make much better, full-range (high/mid/low) sound (adjust your receiver's speaker settings for full-range use). Alternatively, replace only the front left and right satellites, and repurpose them as rear speakers for a 7.1-channel setup.

Go Deep

For greater gravitas and more radical rumbles, you can replace your subwoofer with a higher-wattage model that has a larger-diameter speaker. Alternatively, if your receiver is a 7.2- or 9.2-channel unit, it can support a second subwoofer for more volume at the low end. A second sub on the opposite side of your TV can also balance out the direction of the sound's origin. (Deep bass is non-directional in theory, but not always in practice, with HT subwoofers.)

Enjoy Whole-House Audio Without Cables

Wireless A/V Options

Your home theater has naturally become the center of entertainment in your household. That said, it's not always easy to run cabling from device A to device B. And what about those times when you want to expand the fun into other rooms?

HOME THEATER



Unleash Your Video

A wireless video (and audio) system lets you play content on one device, but watch (and hear) it on another. It's cable-free, so it will be easy to link devices that would be hard to wire together. A pair of wireless HD adapters can send high-def content from a video source, such as a Blu-ray player, to multiple TVs or a ceiling-mounted digital projector. Likewise, a laptop with wireless HD technology can transmit A/V content to your TV using an adapter.

Broadcast Your Audio

Whole-house audio means that no matter where you are in your home or yard, you can listen to the music, audiobook, sportscast, or other content you want to hear. For example, with wireless audio technology, which is built into select HT audio components and other devices, you can rock your patio barbecue party with a compatible portable speaker. In the same way, some mobile devices can use Bluetooth to send audio to an A/V receiver or a set of headphones.

Fire Up Your Wi-Fi

A wireless router brings the audio and video content of the Internet to your Wi-Fi-capable HDTV, receiver, Blu-ray player, or game console. Online A/V sources include movie streaming services (buy an 802.11ac or 802.11n router for HD support), Internet radio stations, and video sites. A router also connects your networked devices to each other, so you can stream video from your computer to your TV, or audio from a shared storage drive to your A/V receiver.

Step Up To An Incredible Level Of Detail

4K Ultra HD

HDTV revolutionized the world with greater picture detail, a wider screen, and larger screen sizes than old standard-definition TV. Now, with 4K Ultra HD home theater picture quality, history is about to repeat itself.

HOME THEATER



4K Makes It Sharper

With a 4K Ultra HD TV, you can enjoy digital cinema entertainment that's clearer and more lifelike. The new video standard has four times the level of detail (3,840 x 2,160 pixels) as regular 1080p HD (1,920 x 1,080). 4K is perfectly suited to today's larger TV screen sizes to assure you of a dazzling visual experience. You'll see your favorite movies, sports, digital photos, and other content with more crystal-clear detail than ever before.

Upscale Your Faves

As more and more 4K content emerges, your Ultra HD entertainment opportunities are multiplying. Epic adventures, sci-fi movies, and nature documentaries—not to mention the big game!—all look sharper in ultra-high resolution.

4K Ultra HD TVs and Blu-ray players can even upscale your existing collection of DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, home movies, TV shows, and other video to the 8 million-pixel screen.

New/Upcoming Devices

Once you've seen the breathtaking picture quality of 4K for yourself, you'll want to bring home your very own Ultra HD TV.

One option for feeding your new set with native 4K movie content is an Ultra HD networked media player. Route it to your TV through a 4K passthrough AV receiver, using 4K-compatible HDMI cables, and you're on your way to stunningly high-def visuals.

Get The High Picture Quality You Paid For

Calibrate Your HDTV

Retail stores may tweak HDTVs' video settings to look their best in a bright, fluorescent-lit environment. Because your home theater's lighting is probably quite different, you need your HDTV professionally calibrated to match its unique setting.

HOME THEATER

With proper calibration to your room's lighting, your HDTV's on-screen images will look more true to life.



Why Have Your TV Calibrated?

- With proper calibration to your room's lighting, the quality of your HDTV's on-screen images will look more true to life. Notably, skin tones and snow scenes won't appear off-color.
- Your TV's contrast will yield brighter whites and darker blacks, letting you see details you wouldn't have noticed before.
- Cable management—which is a part of the professional calibration service—tidies up your home theater setup and makes it easy to identify cable inputs and outputs.

Here's What Will Happen:

- An ISF-certified installer will visit your home and optimize your HDTV's video settings so you can enjoy HD content the way it's intended to look.
- Using professional calibration tools, the installer will adjust video settings to meet ISF standards on two different source inputs.
- To straighten up your home theater's appearance, the installer will dress all cables and wires behind your HDTV.
- The installer can even explain to you any special features or capabilities of your HDTV's remote control.

For Movies, TV Shows & Games Anytime

HT Headphones

Ever want to watch something on TV when your roommate is napping, the kids are in bed, or your spouse doesn't want to hear it? Home theater headphones make viewing much more enjoyable than turning on subtitles and turning down the volume.

HOME THEATER

Home theater headphones—wired or wireless—are built for comfort and audio fidelity.



HT Models

Home theater headphones—wired or wireless—are built for comfort and audio fidelity. Wireless models use IR (infrared), RF (radio frequency), or Klear uncompressed RF technologies. IR units have a reputation for resisting interference, while the two RF technologies may allow you to listen to audio from another room.

Transmitters

Home theater styles of wireless headphones generally come with a transmitter. This AC- or battery-powered unit receives audio from your HT device(s), such as your A/V receiver, and sends it wirelessly to the headphones. Some models support multiple headsets, so several family members can enjoy the same program quietly.

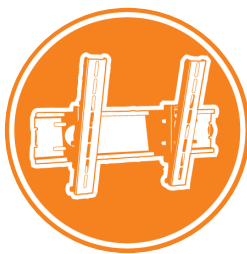
Features

Some transmitters double as docking stations for the headphones, making it easy to recharge their batteries. Speaking of battery life, you want a set of headphones that will last through several movies if necessary. And if you plan to use the headset from a distance, make note of its range for usage, such as 100 feet.

Comfort & Sound

Choose a set of HT headphones that you find comfortable. After all, you don't want to have to take them off halfway through a big game or Harry Potter movie. Likewise, try several models to see which ones sound the best to you. To this end, you'll find that some models employ sound enhancement technologies.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Hang Your TV On The Wall For Viewing Flexibility

Wall Mounts

One of the attractions of a flat-panel HDTV is the fact that you can hang it on your wall. With a wall mount, you may be able to tilt your TV for an optimum viewing angle, get rid of your old TV stand or entertainment center, and reclaim some floor space.

Perfect For: Flat-panel TV owners who would like to take advantage of the modern home theater layout possibilities that a thin HDTV provides.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Experience The Excitement Of HD Video & Audio

Blu-ray Disc Players

A Blu-ray Disc player not only plays Blu-ray movies in stunning Full HD 1080p resolution, it also upconverts your DVDs to look great on your HDTV screen. Many models can stream online video from YouTube, Netflix, Best Buy CinemaNow, and other Web services.

Perfect For: Movie buffs seeking to replace their old DVD players and enjoy the visual and audible thrills of HD entertainment.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Make It Easy To Control Your Home Theater

Universal Remotes

A universal remote lets you put all your other remotes away. Rather than rely on multiple remote controls to take command of your various home theater devices, you can streamline your setup with one remote to control them all.

Perfect For: Anyone who wants to enjoy the entertainment potential of a home theater, but doesn't need the complexity or confusion of two or more remotes to run an HDTV, set-top box, Blu-ray Disc player, and so on.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Protect Your Home Theater Investment

Surge Protectors & Power Conditioners

With a surge protector, you can guard your home theater devices from damage caused by electrical fluctuations. Further, a power conditioner will filter out "dirty power" (also known as electrical interference) that can degrade your audio and video.

Perfect For: Anyone who wants to safeguard their HDTV, sound system, game console, DVR, set-top box, Blu-ray Disc player, or home theater PC from power damage.

Cover The Basics

Creating the ideal home theater isn't a complicated process when you already know the answers to your biggest questions. In that vein, here's some information about home theater products and technologies that should help you make informed decisions.

HOME THEATER



What are the advantages of a 4K TV?

A 4K Ultra HD TV has four times the number of pixels (picture elements) as a 1080p HDTV. The more pixels, the finer the detail the screen can display. 4K TVs can upscale your existing movies, TV shows, sports, and photos, but more and more content in amazingly crisp native 4K is being released.

What do I need to connect my Internet-capable TV and other smart devices to the Web?

You need broadband service, a good router—preferably one with Gigabit Ethernet and Wi-Fi AC or N support—and possibly Wi-Fi or Ethernet adapters for your Internet-ready HT components. Use Ethernet cable, Wi-Fi, or a powerline kit to connect devices to the router.



What's so great about an OLED TV?

This new type of TV—available in 1080p and 4K resolutions—gives you the advantages of both plasma and LED TVs in a thin, energy-efficient display. Light in weight (and sometimes with a curved screen), an OLED gives you the best color reproduction, blur-free motion, and exquisite detail in dark parts of the picture. As prices fall, OLED will be tough to beat.

What does a surround-sound system include?

Home theater sound systems generally include an A/V receiver, which sends audio to the speakers and your choice of video source to the TV. Typically, they also come with a subwoofer for rich bass, a center channel speaker to emphasize dialogue, and a number of satellite (surround) speakers you can mount around the room. You can buy each component separately, or get a package deal with an HTiB (home theater in a box). Full-range speakers will produce the best sound.



What do speaker system numbers such as 5.1 and 7.1 mean?

These numbers describe the number of speakers (channels) the system supports, as in 5.1- or 7.1-channel. The “.1” part indicates one subwoofer, while the “5” or “7” represents the even number of satellite speakers plus the single center channel unit.

Glossary

Home Theater

Don't let unfamiliar jargon keep you from the thrills and excitement of your very own home theater. Before you shop, glance through this handy glossary for definitions of common terms.

HOME THEATER

#

4K

A new, Ultra High-Definition video format with four times the detail of Full HD 1080p. 4K typically has a resolution of 3,840 x 2,160 pixels.

5.1/7.1-channel

These describe the number of speakers in a surround sound system. A 5.1 setup, for example, has four satellites (surround speakers), a center channel, and a subwoofer (.1).

720p/1080i/1080p

These high-definition video formats are named for the height of the picture, namely 720 (1,280 x 720 pixels) and 1,080 (1,920 x 1,080).

A

A/V receiver

An audio amplifier that powers speakers and also acts as a video switch to select the source device shown on your TV.

aspect ratio

How wide a TV screen is compared to its height. HDTVs typically have a 16:9 aspect ratio, such as 1,920 x 1,080 pixels, to accommodate the wide aspect ratios of movies.

D

Dolby/DTS

Blu-ray discs and DVDs use audio formats from Dolby and DTS.

H

HDMI

The High-Definition Multimedia Interface is a type of cable connection that can carry both HD video and multichannel audio between your HDTV, receiver, and other components.

L

LED, LCD

A liquid-crystal display TV uses an electrically sensitive gel to regulate subpixels of color in front of a backlight. Inexpensive LCDs use fluorescent lamps, while LED sets employ brighter, more energy-efficient, white light-emitting diodes for a backlight.

O

OLED

This new type of 4K or 1080p TV can combine the best attributes of LED and plasma. It uses special LEDs made with organic elements (such

as carbon and nitrogen) to produce all the colors in the visible spectrum. However, the OLEDs form the actual pixels of the picture, like a plasma's gas capsules, instead of solely acting as backlighting as in an LED TV. OLEDs can excel in color, brightness, contrast, thinness, energy efficiency, and viewing angle.

P

plasma

Plasma TVs use tiny capsules of gas for each pixel, and electricity makes each capsule glow. Plasmas create very deep, dark colors (high contrast), in which black parts of the picture look truly black instead of gray.

S

smart device

A smart TV (or receiver, or game console, or Blu-ray player) can go online, such as to stream video.

U

Ultra HD

Another name for 4K video. UHD is intended to maintain incredible picture detail even on larger HDTV and projector screen sizes.



PROTECTION

GEEK SQUAD® TO THE RESCUE

We love technology. But it can turn on you in a nanosecond. It freezes up, breaks down, starts acting out or stops responding. When a glitch or malfunction tries to push you over the edge, Geek Squad Protection is here to save the day.

THE ANSWER TO "OOPS"

We've all been there. You spill coffee on your keyboard, trip over your phone charger, or trust your tablet with the kids (it's never the same afterward, is it?). Geek Squad Protection with Accidental Damage from Handling helps you breathe a sigh of relief after unfortunate events like these.

ALWAYS HERE TO HELP

Technology problems never strike when it's convenient. If your computer starts giving you night terrors at 2 a.m. or your camera causes you to lose focus, Geek Squad Protection Agents are standing by day or night.¹

Additional terms and conditions apply. Please refer to the actual plan terms and conditions for a complete description of the scope and limitations of coverage. A service order disclaimer may need to be signed to obtain repairs. You may be charged a diagnosis fee to determine the cause of the product failure. If it is determined that the cause of the product failure is covered under either the manufacturer's warranty or the plan's terms and conditions, the diagnosis fee will be refunded to you. Repairs or replacements will be performed at our discretion by a Best Buy® service center, in-home technician or an authorized third party provider. Replacement parts or products may be new or refurbished to meet the manufacturer's specifications of the original part/product at our discretion.

¹ Some services may require an in-home visit scheduled and performed during regular business hours.
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PEACE OF MIND WITH EVERY PLAN

NO-LEMON POLICY

We replace your product entirely if it requires three qualified repairs over the life of the plan.

NORMAL WEAR & TEAR

We fix defects in materials or workmanship, and failures due to dust, internal heat and humidity.

POWER SURGES

We handle the repairs for any equipment failure due to a power surge or fluctuation.

SCREEN ISSUES

If you notice pixel problems, double images or burn-in, we'll get your screen back to beautiful.

ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE FROM HANDLING

For many devices, we offer plans that cover damage caused by accidental drops and spills during the course of normal use. Service fees will apply for mobile phones. For specific plan details please refer to the actual plan terms and conditions.

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**For specific plan details, see a Customer Specialist
or GeekSquad.com/Protection.**

WE FIX IT OR REPLACE IT



DIFFERENT BENEFITS FOR DIFFERENT PRODUCTS

MOBILE PHONES

- Accidental Damage from Handling coverage available
- One-time and monthly payment options available

COMPUTERS, TABLETS & E-READERS

- Accidental Damage from Handling coverage available
- One-time replacement of original battery

MAJOR APPLIANCES

- In-home service
- Reinstallation (if originally installed by us)
- Extended coverage for major parts

HOME THEATER

- In-home service on qualifying TVs
- Reinstallation (if originally installed by us)
- Extended coverage for speakers

GAMING

- Accidental Damage from Handling coverage available on portable gaming devices and controllers
- One-time console accessory replacement

MP3 PLAYERS

- Accidental Damage from Handling coverage available
- One-time replacement of original battery

CAR ELECTRONICS & GPS

- Accidental Damage from Handling coverage available on GPS
- Annual preventative maintenance
- Reinstallation (if originally installed by us)

DIGITAL CAMERAS & CAMCORDERS

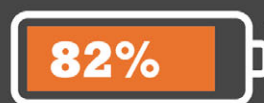
- Accidental Damage from Handling coverage available
- Annual preventative maintenance for DSLR
- Included accessory coverage



GOOD NEWS FOR A BAD BREAK

Your phone slips, your drink spills or the kids crack your screen. When accidents happen, repairs can be frustrating and expensive.

Geek Squad® Protection with Accidental Damage from Handling covers you in case of accidents like drops and spills.



of smartphone owners say they are likely to drop their phone¹



21%

of tablet owners who paid for accidents spent over \$100¹

41%

of DSLR camera owners report that accidents resulted in a cracked screen or worse¹



PROTECTION WITH ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE FROM HANDLING

Accidental Damage from Handling covers damage as a result of unexpected and unintentional drops and spills that arise from normal usage of the product as the manufacturer intended. Abuse, misuse and fraud not covered.
¹ All data composed for Best Buy by Kelton Research.

Camera Features

You Should Know

Your next digital camera could be much more fulfilling with just a few key features. Don't worry; we're here to help. Here's a camera shopping primer.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Your next digital camera could be much more fulfilling with just a few key features.



Wireless Photo & Video Transfers

Many cameras and camcorders now come with Wi-Fi support, which can make it much easier for you to preserve and share your memories. For example, your cam might automatically upload your photos and videos to your computer or a Web site without a cable.

Touchscreen Display

It's much easier to capture those fleeting moments when you don't have to stop and navigate your camera's menu settings. Cameras that have touchscreen displays deliver intuitive control with icons and gestures such as pinching your fingers together to zoom.

Dual Image Stabilization

How often do you carry around a tripod? Truth is, we shoot the vast majority of our photos with a handheld camera. To make sure you take crisp looking images, a camera with dual image stabilization will optically and digitally steady your shots to prevent blur caused by camera shake.

Face Detection Technology

Say cheese. . . People's faces are the most important elements in our photos. As such, a camera with face detection technology uses the faces of friends and loved ones as reference points when it automatically sets its focus and exposure settings. This ensures that everyone looks their best.

Get The Best Image Results Every Time

Scene Settings

A lot goes into shooting great photos: lighting, exposure, balance, composition, and more. Because many digital cameras have special scene settings, you don't have to be an expert to achieve photographic excellence.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Scene settings adjust all of the camera's variables to best capture specific types of shots.



Always The Best Results

Scene settings (sometimes called scene modes) adjust all of the camera's variables to best capture specific types of shots: evening photos, action-packed sports, and more. Most cameras offer basic scene modes for portraits, landscapes, and night shots. But many offer more sophisticated settings to take specialty photos, such as fireworks, kids and pets, or sports. While you concentrate on getting the picture you want, a camera with scene settings will take care of the technical details.

Automatic Advantages

Of course, you can capture great images by using your camera's manual settings; experienced photographers have been doing that for years. Manual settings do require that you constantly adjust your camera as you're shooting, however. While an expert can certainly do that, most of us beginner or intermediate photographers would like the option of having the camera adjust itself, while we just point the camera and wait for the best shot.

Change Scenes Quickly

If you only shot one type of photo, scene modes wouldn't matter much; it's easy enough to set a camera for one type of shot. But because you'll snap photos in a number of different circumstances—such as your nephew on the soccer field, an indoor arena, a sunrise at the beach, or a candid indoor portrait—you'll appreciate the flexibility and ease of use that special scene settings add to your photographic repertoire.

The World's Smallest & Lightest* DSLR Camera

Canon EOS Rebel SL1

The ideal go-to camera for any photo opportunity, the Canon EOS Rebel SL1 captures crisp and clear shots whether you're shooting in dim lighting or snapping fast-action photos. This is the DSLR that can help you ignite your imagination.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Canon

Canon EOS Rebel SL1
18-55mm IS STM Kit

SKU: 8153056

www.usa.canon.com



EOS REBEL SL1

Amazing Processing Power, So Compact

Weighing in at approximately 13 ounces, the EOS Rebel SL1's astonishingly compact size complements its reliable performance as a member of the Canon EOS family. To enhance the usability of the EOS Rebel SL1, Canon developed the 18.0 MP CMOS sensor, ideal for enlarging photos or cropping detailed portions of a composition. And thanks to the DIGIC 5 image processor, the SL1 can achieve higher ISO sensitivity to reduce blurring.

True HD Performance, Rebel Simplicity

Using the EOS Rebel SL1's Full HD Movie Mode, you can easily shoot HD video in multiple recording sizes and frame rates. Movie Servo AF allows continuous autofocus tracking of moving subjects while you record video—it takes advantage of the lens' stepping motor to provide smooth and quiet AF. Plus, Video Snapshot will automatically combine short video clips that you can share online or view on your HDTV via HDMI connection.

Check Out These Impressive Capabilities

There's a lot more to love about the EOS Rebel SL1, such as the following features:

- High-speed continuous shooting up to 4.0 fps lets you capture the action
- 9-point Autofocus system
- Scene Intelligent Auto Mode delivers expertly optimized photos

*Among digital SLR cameras which use APS-C size equivalent sensors. As of March 1, 2013, based on Canon's research.

FirstGlimpse

High-End, Mid-Level & Basic Camcorders

In a world where even your cell phone captures HD video, is there still a need for a camcorder? Yes, there is—in fact, now more than ever. When you watch on your HDTV or share it online, video quality matters, and a camcorder is the best way to get it.

DIGITAL IMAGING



High-End Cams

Only the best lenses and image sensors need apply here. For shooting in low light or other challenging conditions, you'll get the best results with a top-shelf camcorder. They're made to wring the best video possible out of difficult shooting environments, so you can imagine how rich and clear their footage can be under decent lighting. Some high-end models can even shoot 3D video in HD, such as with an optional dual-lens attachment.

Mid-Level Models

A mid-range camcorder typically has a larger image sensor than a basic camcorder. A bigger sensor can capture more of the light coming through the lens (which may also be larger and higher in quality in a mid-level camcorder). This means that the picture will contain less electronic "noise," so you'll get cleaner and sharper picture detail. Mid-range camcorders can also shoot in HD video formats, which is a feature not every entry-level camcorder can claim.

Basic Camcorders

Even entry-level video cameras can often record better images than a typical camera phone. Most camcorders come with a bigger lens, for instance, and that lens is higher in quality. Also, many basic camcorders capture sharper close-ups thanks to their optical zoom capability, which is one thing camera phones generally lack. It's often easier to swap memory cards in a camcorder, too, and it's more comfortable to hold one for a long shoot.

Get More Creative Photo Results With Flashes & Filters

Flashes and filters are two camera accessories that can either add or block light to help you achieve particular photo results. While a flash can help evenly light settings, a filter can enhance colors, boost contrast, and more.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Light Up The Darkness

A flash gives you better control of your lighting conditions when you take photos, particularly when you can direct the angle of the flash. By adding an external flash to your camera, you can cast indirect light onto your subject by reflecting it off a ceiling or a bounce card. Indirect illumination casts softer shadows and looks more like natural light.

A quality external camera flash can adequately light your subjects from a distance so that their faces don't look too dark. More specifically, a dedicated camera flash can offset shadows caused by sunlight above or behind someone's face. Your smartphone's built-in camera flash may not be powerful enough to illuminate these types of dark areas.

Good Light In, Bad Light Out

UV filters can protect your camera's image sensor and improve photo quality by getting rid of the bluish haze caused by ultraviolet light. Other filter types offer different benefits. For example, a circular polarized filter can reduce white glare and enhance your subject's color and contrast. It will also eliminate reflections from non-metallic surfaces.

Some filters add enhancements that can make images appear almost magical. For instance, a diffusion filter can soften edges or blur the background to change the aesthetics of a still image. And for an interesting retro effect, an 8-point star filter can make celestial rays of light emanate from reflections and other light sources.

Buy What You Really Want With Financing For DI

Many photographers want a high-quality lens or more powerful camera, but they balk at the premium prices. If you can't afford upfront costs today, you can take advantage of in-store financing to take home the equipment you used to dream about.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Sign Up For A Card

CE retailers offer monthly financing so you can pay in small increments for your purchase, rather than a huge lump sum. This option is often available when you sign up for an in-store credit card. By making this small commitment, you'll be able to take your new digital imaging item home and use it right away.

Choose A Finance Plan

If you don't have the funds to pay now, you can often choose a long-term financing plan that lasts anywhere from six to 36 months. (The total cost of your purchase may determine which payment plan you're eligible for.) In general, annual financing fees are waived if you pay with your in-store credit card.

Bypass Interest Payments

You really can take home that feature-packed HD camcorder you've been eyeing, without paying interest. You don't have to compromise your long-term financial goals, either. Pay off your balance by the end of your financing term (and don't miss any monthly payments), and your cam will be interest-free.

Get Rewards For Purchases

An in-store credit card goes beyond a spending account. As a cardholder, you're also eligible for exclusive discounts and events, plus extended return policies. And with every purchase you make, you can earn points toward gift certificates you can use in-store or online.

Cameras With Future-Proof Features

Built To Last

If you're shopping for a new camera with longevity in mind, there are some key features to look for. A camera that produces great-looking images and sports a durable design can be your photography companion for many years to come.

DIGITAL IMAGING

A tough camera model lets you shoot in situations most cameras can't tolerate.



Capture High-Quality Images

Vivid, sharp, and true-to-life images can be yours with a camera that has a first-rate image sensor, image processor, and lens. For instance, you'll find some durable cameras that have high-sensitivity CMOS sensors to deliver images with less noise and improved image detail, especially in low-light settings.

Quickly Freeze Moments In Time

To ensure that you capture every special moment, especially the unexpected ones, look for a camera that powers on, focuses, and snaps subsequent shots quickly. Try a camera with a fast shutter speed priority or high-speed sequential shooting, such as 5fps, for the best results.

Survive Harsh Conditions

With water-, shock-, crush-, freeze-, and dust-proof features, a camera can survive many detrimental scenarios. What's more, a tough camera model lets you shoot in situations most cameras can't tolerate, such as underwater, in the snow, on the beach, in the rain, and more.

Expand Your Capabilities

Cameras that accept different lenses, lens converters, flashes, or other add-ons let you break new boundaries with your photography. By adding a fisheye lens to a compatible camera, you can shoot with a wider angle to frame a large group of people or a sunset on the horizon.

Capture Sharp-Looking Memories

Image Stabilization

A great shot can end up being a bad photo or video when an unsteady hand makes it blurry. Luckily, many cameras and camcorders have built-in image stabilization technology to reduce the effect of shaking so your media looks its best.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Image stabilization can counteract shaky grips, unstable stances, and other unintentional movements.



Crisp & Clear Photos

Image stabilization (IS) is useful when you use a high optical zoom, which makes your camera extremely sensitive to movement. It can also offset movement when you're shooting in low-light settings because your camera's shutter speed is slow and its image sensor is exposed for a long period of time.

Many cameras have digital IS technology, but better models also use optical IS image stabilization. OIS physically adjusts a camera's image sensor position for greater effectiveness.

Be aware that while IS can counter the effects of an unsteady hand, it won't be able to compensate for the movement of your subject.

Smooth & Steady Video

You may think you keep perfectly still while shooting with a camcorder, but the smallest things such as your breathing or even your pulse can cause video shake. Tripods are one answer to this problem, but they aren't exactly convenient to take with you every time. To solve this issue, most camcorders use image stabilization technology to counteract the effects of shaky grips, unstable stances, and other unintentional movements on your video.

Camcorders generally offer both digital and optical image stabilization, but the latter is the more effective to keep unwanted motion from ruining the events you record. As in cameras, camcorder IS is most helpful when you zoom in.

Take Better Pictures With Camera Lenses

Your DSLR or compact system camera probably came bundled with a good lens for all-around use. A sound reason to consider buying another lens is because it will help your camera take much better pictures in certain situations.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Telephoto & Macro Lenses

Athletes, musicians, and wildlife are usually far away from you when they're doing something photogenic. With a telephoto lens, you can "zoom in" on the action and make it seem much closer.

Also called a zoom lens, a telephoto uses a series of carefully matched optics to magnify the image your camera sees. Many telephotos let you adjust their magnification, so you can zoom out for closer subjects.

Speaking of closer subjects, if you want to photograph items close-up, a macro lens can help you focus.

Wide-Angle & Fisheye Lenses

It's hard to capture the majestic expanse of a landscape with a standard lens. Likewise, in a small room, it's hard to include everyone in a group photo. You simply can't back up far enough to squeeze in those people on the edges.

A wide-angle lens can handle the squeezing for you. A wide-angle is a mild version of a "fisheye" lens. It's designed to widen your shot without distorting the image.

You can get stronger image correction with a super wide-angle lens. A fisheye lens can broaden your shot even more, but it will make straight lines appear noticeably curved.

Choose From DSLR Or Compact System Models

Advanced Cameras

DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) cameras and compact system cameras share an important difference from pocket-sized point-and-shoots: You can change their lenses for different photographic situations. Read on to discover which of these cameras may be right for you.

DIGITAL IMAGING

You can
change DSLR
and compact
system camera
lenses for
different
photographic
situations.



DSLRs: The Professional's Choice

Picture a photographer covering sports, nature, celebrities, or news. The camera in her hands is likely a DSLR.

Like the SLR film cameras that preceded it, a DSLR has a moving mirror assembly inside it. It lets you see exactly what the lens sees when you look through the viewfinder. Press the shutter button, however, and the mirror pivots aside with a “click” to expose a large image sensor.

Besides interchangeable lenses, DSLRs are known for their high image quality in both photos and video. You'll get amazing color and clarity, along with a hot shoe for a flash attachment and advanced automatic and manual settings.

CS Cams: DSLR Benefits, Smaller Size

A compact system camera aims for the middle ground between DSLRs and point-and-shoot cameras. Its purpose is to give you image quality and versatility like a DSLR, but in a much trimmer, slimmer package. A CS camera can be less bulky than a DSLR because it leaves out the moving mirror.

Like a DSLR's, a CS camera's large image sensor gathers more light with less electronic noise than a point-and-shoot's tiny sensor. You'll be able to shoot very clean, lifelike pics and video in automatic mode, but you'll also have a broad range of manual settings. Also like a DSLR, a compact system model has a hot shoe and a mount for telephoto, wide-angle, and other lenses.

From Your Camera To The Big Screen

Photos On Your TV

We snap a ton of digital photos and video, but we don't tend to look at the results very often later on. When we do, it's usually on the small screen of a computer or phone. Why not put your photos and video on a big HDTV for the entire family to enjoy?

DIGITAL IMAGING

You may be able to plug your camera or camcorder into your TV's HDMI port to show off its media.



Cable It In

If your camera came with a mini HDMI to HDMI cable, you may be able to plug it directly into your TV or A/V receiver to show off its pics and video clips.

You can also use an HDMI cable to connect your TV to your computer, which offers a variety of ways to display your images.

Get Carded

If your TV, receiver, Blu-ray player, or other HT device has a memory card slot, such as for your camera's SD card, it might be able to play a slideshow of the JPEG or other image (and video) files stored on the card. If your camera uses a tiny card format such as microSD, you may need to use an inexpensive adapter.

Use USB

Many game consoles, HDTVs, and other devices come with a USB port or two. Some are nothing more than firmware update ports, but many recent devices let you display certain photo files from your USB flash drive or external hard drive. (Drives with the FAT32 file system are more likely to be compatible.)

Make Slideshows

With photo or video editing software, you can use your computer to create a DVD slideshow of your favorite images, complete with transitions, titles, and music.

For sharper results with your HDTV and Blu-ray player, tell the software to write the DVD as an AVCHD disc.

Items Your New Camera Will Need

Digital Imaging Extras

The right camera or camcorder accessories will help you get the shots you want when opportunities happen. Here are some must-have products that can keep your digital imaging device ready to capture clear, sharp memories.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Memory Cards

Keep spare memory cards on hand so you can snap away without having to worry about running out of storage space. Consider buying several memory cards with smaller capacities instead of one card with a larger capacity; that way, if something goes wrong with one card, you'll still have a fallback option.

Spare Batteries

Make sure you're never caught without the power needed to capture the perfect moment. Keep at least one fully charged spare battery in your camera bag. Also, a 12V vehicle battery charger will give you the flexibility to power up your camera batteries anywhere you're headed, even if you're traveling.

Store & Protect

A protective case keeps your camera or camcorder safe from bumps, scrapes, and even light moisture.

A form-fitting case is great for a point-and-shoot camera. For larger cams, buy a camera bag with pockets for spare batteries, memory cards, extra lenses, and more.

Use A Tripod

A tripod keeps your camera steady while you're shooting close-up or distance shots, which can prevent photo blurring. It also lets you use your camera's timer to snap group portraits.

A tripod is also key to recording steady video. It can smooth out panning and tilting shots, too.

Get The Capacity & Speed You Need

Memory Card Specs

When you shop for a memory card, you should pay attention to two things: capacity and speed. Depending on your needs, one may be more important than the other. Here we'll help you determine the size and speed of a memory card that's right for you.

DIGITAL IMAGING

A card with a faster speed is ideal for action photos because you won't have to wait as long between shots.



Capacity

- A person who takes hundreds of shots at one time, such as a family shutterbug or a prosumer photographer, is more apt to need a large capacity memory card (32GB or more) than someone who only takes a few photos.
- Videos require more memory card capacity than images, but the amount of footage you can record varies widely due to a card's capacity and the quality level of your video (standard definition, 720p, or 1080p).
- For shooting HD video, an 8GB or 16GB card will be enough for a half hour of footage. If you choose a lower capacity, you may need to swap in fresh cards more often.

Speed

- A memory card's maximum transfer rate often determines how quickly your camera will be able to take another photo. A card with a faster speed is ideal for action photos because you won't wait as long between shots.
- In terms of video, the sustained write rate of a memory card is more important than the maximum speed rating because the card must constantly record video data to the card.
- SD cards have a sustained speed rating, such as Class 2, Class 4, and Class 6. The number in the rating indicates the speed in MBps at which the card can save video. A higher number is better; an HD camera requires at least Class 4.

Seize More Photo Opportunities Than Ever

Get Closer With Zoom

Many of us have used a camera's adjustable zoom to bring a distant subject closer or capture a wide-angle landscape. That said, you'll find that cameras with advanced zoom capabilities offer additional photography benefits.

DIGITAL IMAGING

With an enhanced digital zoom feature, you can get crisp results without much loss of quality.



Zoom For A New View

Digital cameras employ two different types of zoom—optical and digital. Optical zoom is the true zoom capability of a camera that only uses the lens to magnify a view. Digital zoom may use pixel interpolation to enlarge an image from a smaller, central part of the image sensor. Because digital zoom decreases image quality, some cameras have an intermediate digital zoom range, which electronically enlarges the optically zoomed image as much as possible with sharp results.

Get Closer Than Before

While a camera with a 5X or 10X optical zoom might suffice for everyday shooting, a camera with 30X or greater zoom power opens the door to many more shooting possibilities. From sitting up high in the stands during a baseball game to hiking a mountain-side, using a camera with a long zoom capability lets you get closer to the action and detail. And with the aforementioned enhanced digital zoom feature, you can get crisp results without much loss of quality.

Shoot Clear & Close-Up

If you plan to take images that require plenty of zoom, and you want to get crisp, clear results, your camera should also have a good image stabilization feature. This is important because camera shake is a lot more noticeable when you use zoom. To ensure that your shots are blur-free even if you use the camera's highest magnification level, the camera model should include a sensor shift and high ISO dual image stabilization.

Depend On Different Tools For Photos & Video

Camcorders Vs. Cams

Cameras and camcorders are made to do specific jobs well: Camcorders shoot video; cameras capture still images. If you expect your camcorder to also snap top-quality photos, or your camera to shoot awesome video, you may be disappointed.

DIGITAL IMAGING

In the end,
it's all about
using the
right tool for
the job.



Don't Limit Yourself With A Device

Sure, your still camera can shoot video, and within limits it does a passable job—but those limits can be tough to live with. Many cameras lose the ability to auto-focus or zoom when shooting video; the length of video may be short; and the video may not have a smooth frame rate. Camcorders, meanwhile, can capture still images, but that's not what they were primarily designed to do. As a result, most camcorder stills are low-resolution, grainy images that aren't particularly sharp. These devices may be good enough to use when you have no other option to capture photos or video, but it's often impossible to print or enlarge the media without digital artifacts (such as spots or speckles) appearing.

Get The Ideal Solution

In the end, it's all about using the right tool for the job. Even in low light, most cameras can capture sharp, well-exposed images that can easily be enlarged and printed. Convenient, flexible, and available to fit most budgets, a DSLR or point-and-shoot camera will produce better stills than a camcorder almost every time. If quality video footage is your goal, you'll find that a digital camcorder can produce sharper, brighter video than just about any still camera. Many camcorders offer automatic stabilization features, displays that flip and rotate for convenient viewing, continuous autofocus, smooth optical zooms, and the ability to record 1080p HD video. And with most models including outputs such as HDMI, you'll be able to watch high-quality video on your TV or computer.

Cameras Built For Easy Web Sharing

By selecting a camera with Web-friendly features, you can streamline the process of editing, uploading, and sharing your photos with friends and family. Here's a look at what some of those features are and how they can benefit you.

DIGITAL IMAGING

A camera with Web-friendly features streamlines the process of editing, uploading, and sharing your photos.



Tag & Organize

After you snap a group of pictures, some cameras let you use built-in tools to tag the shots you'd like to share online later. Certain models also let you categorize your images into different folders, right there on the camera. When you're done, you're ready to connect your camera to your computer for the transfer process.

Auto Upload

Plug your Web-friendly camera into your PC's USB port, and its automatic transfer features can kick in. Depending on its capabilities, it may automatically upload your pics to your Facebook, Flickr, Picasa, or other account, and/or copy your images to your computer in the folders you specified on the camera.

Share Wirelessly

Some digital cameras let you skip your PC altogether. These models can use Wi-Fi and/or Bluetooth to let you wirelessly share your photos and videos directly from your camera. Features vary, but different models can wirelessly send your files to social networking sites, email addresses, your phone, your computer, and more.

Edit & Format

Many cameras let you remove red-eye and do other light editing such as cropping, but some models empower you with even more advanced tools. For instance, some digicams let you adjust the aspect ratio (height/width) of images to meet the upload requirements of blogs or social networking Web sites.

The Best In Digital Imaging To Capture Sports

In sports settings, you have very specific things to photograph in very little time. Whether you want to shoot your own water skiing adventures or snap photos of friends during a road race, here are your best options to freeze those competitive moments.

DIGITAL IMAGING



For Adventurers

Extreme sport lovers need a camera that can keep up with their lifestyles. A wearable camera can stay out of the way, yet capture images and footage of your thrill-seeking adventures. Multiple attachments are available to suit a variety of shooting needs and sports, including helmet, chest, bicycle, and wrist strap mounts as well as water-resistant housings. Most models can record 1080p HD video, so you'll be able to revisit the action with professional-quality footage and images.

For Faraway Action

Pairing your DSLR or compact system camera with a telephoto lens will bring distant subjects close within your view. So, if you're sitting several rows back at your son's football game, you can easily snap clear, up-close shots that look like they were taken from the sideline. Telephoto lenses offer different focal length ranges, but it's likely that a lens that's at least 70mm will be sufficient for your photography of distant subjects.

For Spectators

It's not convenient to carry a large camcorder to a sporting event, especially if you need to squeeze into a crowded stand. An alternative is an ultra-portable, shoot-and-share camcorder you can slip into a purse or coat pocket and pull out to record footage of your child's soccer game or karate match. Most shoot and share camcorders can capture 1080p HD video and feature other useful technologies such as digital image stabilization and auto focus.



Continue To Capture Cherished Memories

Extra Batteries

You won't miss special moments such as your son's baseball game or baby's first steps if you keep a spare camera battery on hand. While it's convenient to be able to re-charge a battery, that isn't the case when you're short on time. It's a good idea to have a fully charged backup so you don't miss any action.

Perfect For: Shooting photos or video at special events with limited interruption.



Get The Right Capacity, Speed & Class

Memory Cards

Not all memory cards are created equal. Their differences in capacity and class (write speed) both have a bearing on what they can do and, therefore, which one you'll want for your camera. To get the right card for your image or video recording needs, speak with a sales associate at your local CE retailer.

Perfect For: Capturing special moments that a slower or smaller memory card might cause you to miss.



Shoot Crisp & Level Images Every Time

Tripods

Can any of us really say that we can hold a camera as steadily as we'd like to? Probably not. A tripod solves this issue, as it's sturdy enough to hold the weight of your camera or camcorder and comes equipped with a three-way pan/tilt head that lets you fluidly follow subjects.

Perfect For: Keeping everything within frame level when you shoot portraits, horizons, and more. A tripod also prevents image blur when shooting in dimly-lit settings.



Protect Your Digital Imaging Investment

Camera & Camcorder Cases

To protect your camera or camcorder, you need a case that offers the best in screen protection, comfort, durability, and accessibility. Cases range in style and size to fit your lifestyle. Features can include impact- and water-resistance, soft interior linings, and pockets to keep a spare battery or memory card on hand.

Perfect For: Those who want to organize accessories and make their digital imaging device last for years to come.

Cover The Basics

It's exciting to discover the new capabilities appearing in digital cameras and camcorders, although the related terminology can be a little confusing at first. Here's the scoop on some features you can use to capture and share memories better than before.

DIGITAL IMAGING



What is the difference between a compact system camera and a DSLR?

Compact systems share many of the traits of a DSLR, such as the abilities to capture high-quality images and swap lenses. However, where they differ is in size and internal components. A compact system camera lacks a pivoting mirror mechanism and an optical viewfinder, so its body is typically smaller than a DSLR.



What is the benefit of a camera with a touchscreen?

A touchscreen lets you choose menu settings, so it can take the place of menu buttons (and therefore give you a bigger screen). You can also tap the screen to focus on a particular spot and take a picture.

Are there compact camera models that pack big zoom capabilities?

Yes. For example, some compact cameras offer up to a 50X optical zoom so you can get up close to subjects even when you're far away. A cam with an optical image stabilizer can ensure that your zoomed-in images remain crisp and detailed.



Are durable cameras only for athletic and outdoor users?

Not at all. They're ideal for sports, hiking, and so on, but parents can benefit from them because they're more kid-proof than ordinary digital cameras. For instance, they can withstand sticky hands and beverage spills, drops (accidental and otherwise), and nights they're absent-mindedly left outdoors.

What does Wi-Fi add to a camera?

A camera or flash memory card with built-in wireless support can automatically transfer your photos and videos to your PC, a photo sharing site, or a social network when you're in range of a known Wi-Fi hotspot. This not only saves you the time you'd spend uploading your media, it also makes an immediate backup of your pics and videos.

Glossary

Digital Imaging

There's a lot of lingo to wade through as you shop for a new camera or camcorder. To help you find a device that best suits your photo or video needs, here are the definitions of terms you're likely to run into.

DIGITAL IMAGING

B

burst mode

This mode lets you capture several consecutive photos by pressing the shutter button only once. It's ideal for fast-moving subjects, such as athletes.

C

compact system camera

Smaller than a DSLR, but larger than a point-and-shoot, a CS cam lets you change its lenses like a DSLR.

D

digital zoom

Magnifies an image by cropping it and smoothing jagged edges with interpolated pixels. This degrades picture quality, so never buy a camera based on its high digital zoom rating.

DSLR

A digital single-lens reflex camera is a larger model with interchangeable lenses, a big image sensor, an optical viewfinder, and internal differences.

I

image sensor

The chip that turns light into electronic signals to make a digital photo

or video. Larger sensors take better images, all else being equal.

ISO

A digital camera's ISO setting measures its current sensitivity to light. A cam capable of using higher ISOs, such as 6400 (equivalent to a fast film speed), can take low-light photos in less time (a shorter exposure).

M

megapixel (MP)

Approximately 1 million pixels. The higher a photo's MP count, the higher the resolution, which means you can create larger prints (or crop for smaller ones) with better quality.

O

optical image stabilization (OIS)

A mechanical method of eliminating camera shake (and thus photo blur) during zoomed-in, handheld shooting. It's generally superior to digital IS.

optical zoom

The camera's mechanical ability to move the lens to enlarge a subject. The higher the number (such as 5X or 10X), the more powerful the zoom. When choosing a camera, always consider its optical zoom capability, not its digital zoom.

P

point-and-shoot

A slim, pocket-sized camera that's easy to use, typically with a non-removable lens.

R

resolution

The number of pixels in an image, such as 2,272 x 1,704 or 10 megapixels. The higher the resolution, the more detail and quality in a photo.

T

telephoto lens

A "zoom" lens that makes distant subjects appear closer.

W

wide-angle lens

A lens that can include more of a scene at a given distance. Extreme wide-angle lenses are called fish-eyes.

Wireless/Wi-Fi (camera)

When you're near a friendly wireless network or hotspot, a Wi-Fi camera can automatically upload your photos and videos to a PC, storage device, or Web site.

Voice Recognition Software Lets You **Control With Speech**

It may sound futuristic, but you can control all sorts of devices with only the sound of your voice. Voice recognition is empowering for the differently abled, safer for drivers, and more convenient for people who are just plain busy.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Voice recognition software lets you dictate text instead of typing it in, with accuracy that improves over time.



PC Speech-To-Text & Control

Voice recognition software lets you dictate text instead of typing it in, with accuracy that improves over time. It also can give you verbal command over your computer. Some software also lets you use your smartphone or tablet as a microphone when you download a compatible app.

Hands-Free Calling

A hands-free calling device lets you use your phone in your vehicle while you keep your hands safely on the wheel. Many let you place a call simply by speaking a contact's name or number. Hands-free devices include Bluetooth car kits, Bluetooth headsets, and select car stereos.

Smart TVs With Voice Command

Some recent HDTVs and game consoles come with voice (and gesture) recognition built-in, so you can tell your TV to turn on, go to a specific channel, and even launch your favorite smart app. Certain TVs allow you to use your compatible smartphone or tablet as a remote control.

Smartphone & Tablet Control

As we've mentioned, these mobile devices quite often play a role in your voice control of other gadgets. However, you can issue commands to them, too. For instance, you can use your voice to search the Web, place a phone or video call, control music playback, and much more.

Not All Monitor Specifications Are The Same

Learn Display Details

Most of us use various monitors throughout our day, but when it comes to buying your own display, there's more that informs the decision making process than aesthetic preference. Read on to learn important specification guidelines.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Know Your Highs & Lows

- A high contrast ratio will help produce more realistic-looking video.
- A high refresh rate is best to prevent image blurring, also known as ghosting.
- Similarly, it's always better for a monitor to have a lower response time than a higher one.

Take Your Measurements

- Standard screen sizes (measured diagonally) generally range from 13 inches to 30 inches.
- If 27 or 30 inches isn't large enough, your PC may support more monitors for a wider display.
- Widescreen monitors are ideal for HD content.

Get The Ports You Need

- DVI, HDMI, and VGA are the most common inputs you'll find on monitors. At least one of them will work with your PC.
- If your PC offers a DisplayPort output, you can use a compatible monitor—and possibly more than one.

Don't Forget These Specs

- Look for a viewing angle closest to 180 degrees to be able to view the display from multiple angles.
- A monitor's resolution depends on its size. Higher resolutions, available in larger screens, show more movie, video, and photo detail.

Enhance What Your Laptop Already Offers

Notebook Necessities

You probably already know that a notebook computer is great for on-the-go Web access, social networking, work, and play. But with an accessory or two, you can use your laptop in surprising new ways. Read on to discover some possibilities.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Pro Presentations

When you've dedicated hours to making a slide-show presentation, you don't want to lose your audience by having to rush through pre-timed slides. As an alternative, you can use a wireless presentation pointer—similar to a remote or pen—that lets you control your slides and point out highlights as you move around the room.

Expanded Wi-Fi

With a mobile hotspot, you can access the Internet practically anywhere you receive a cell phone signal. In other words, your laptop's Web access will no longer be limited to areas with Wi-Fi coverage. Imagine the possibilities with your laptop while you're traveling, camping out, or picnicking in a park.

Big-Screen Media

More and more laptops now come with ways to send video to an HDTV. With the right connection—such as an HDMI cable or a wireless adapter, if your laptop supports it—you can enjoy a variety of media on a big screen. Use your laptop to access Web videos, home movies, or HD content, then sit back and watch it on your TV.

As A Desktop

Many of us love the portability and power of a laptop, but we'd really rather have a more ergonomic keyboard and a larger screen. When you're not out and about, plug a mouse, LCD monitor, and the keyboard of your choice into your laptop. A docking station will make these connections even simpler.

Enjoy More Home Theater Entertainment

Free Your PC Media

Many of us store music, videos, and photos on our computers, but when you want to enjoy your media a PC doesn't always do it justice. Here's how you can access the content on your computer using your home theater system for a better entertainment experience.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Using your home network, a game console can stream PC media to your entertainment center.



Streaming Boxes

One of the easiest ways to bring PC content to a home theater is with a streaming home theater device, which can tap into your home network using a Wi-Fi or Ethernet connection to communicate with any network-connected computer. Once your computer media is retrieved, the box sends the content via an HDMI cable to your home theater system. Additionally, some streaming boxes can access a variety of Web streaming services, such as Netflix, YouTube, or Pandora.

Game Consoles

Using your home network, a game console can also stream PC media to your entertainment center. Once it's connected to your home network and home theater, you only need to adjust your game console's settings so it can find and play back your favorite media. Note that most game consoles also offer disc drives, USB ports, and memory card slots, so you can also copy your content to computer media and then insert it into the game console for playback.

Search & Control

Select "Internet players" let you browse the Web on the big screen, just as if you were using a PC to retrieve search results. If a player supports Flash-based content, then you can enjoy more interactive content and videos, too. And for those who like remote controls that have every capability you could think of, look for one that includes a touchpad, full QWERTY keyboard, and motion sensor. All these features will make it easier to find shows, channels, and apps on your smart device.

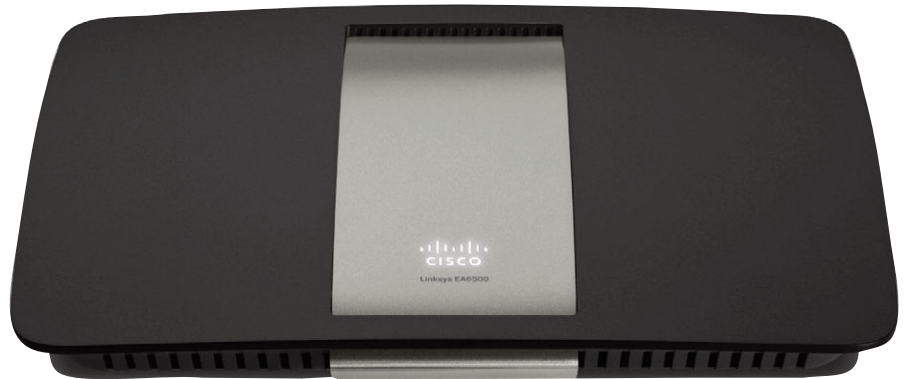
To Add Network Speed, Shop For Wi-Fi AC Or N

Upgrade Your Router

PCs, mobile devices, game consoles, and even TVs now come with wireless Internet capabilities. But to stream Web content and HD video to these Wi-Fi devices, you need the fast and reliable connection of a quality router. Here's the latest scoop.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

To stream Web content and HD video, you need the fast and reliable connection of a quality router.



Wi-Fi AC Offers Cable-Like Speed

- Wi-Fi AC (802.11ac) gives you much faster speed than Wi-Fi N, G, B, or A with compatible adapters, so you can stream even HD video smoothly
- Backward-compatible with slower 802.11n/g/b devices
- A 2.4GHz Wi-Fi N, G, or B device on the network won't reduce the speed of 5GHz Wi-Fi AC or N connections
- Adapters for non-mobile devices such as PCs may use multiple antennas to reach theoretical Wi-Fi AC network speeds of up to 1,300Mbps; mobile device network access may not be quite as speedy

Wi-Fi N Routers Are Inexpensive

- Wi-Fi N (5GHz or 2.4GHz) is fine for streaming most video over your network
- Speeds of up to 450Mbps with multi-antenna adapters; mobile devices may have slower access
- Backward-compatible with Wi-Fi G, B, and maybe A (802.11g/b/a) devices
- A dual-band concurrent (simultaneous) Wi-Fi N or AC router can connect to 5GHz and 2.4GHz devices at the same time, unlike a selectable (non-concurrent) dual band or standard Wi-Fi router

Equip Your Laptop & Tablet For Computing On The Go

Ticket, passport, and ID. You've packed these essentials, but have you remembered all the extras you need to protect and connect your computing devices? Beyond the basic laptop case or tablet cover, here are few items you won't want to leave home without.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Have you remembered all the extras you need to protect and connect your computing devices?



Secure & Prepare

Safeguarding your laptop during your travels requires more than just a reliable bag. To add an extra layer of protection, consider investing in a laptop cable lock that you can secure with a combination or key. Although you probably wouldn't lock down a tablet in quite the same way, you can still protect its functionality with a scratch proof, military-grade screen protector. Many such tablet shields feature self-healing properties, glare reduction, and drop-resistant grip.

Work Comfortably

If you're working on the go, you're likely logging hours on your laptop in airport terminals and at other inconvenient locations. But by sliding an ergonomic lapdesk under your computer, you can sit practically anywhere and type without discomfort. Or, if you're a tablet user that still prefers the tactile feel of a traditional QWERTY keyboard, add a Bluetooth keyboard that simply folds into a hard shell case. This way you can protect your tablet and work efficiently wherever you travel.

Take Power To-Go

Inevitably, the low battery icon will appear on your laptop screen if you're typing while unplugged. However, when you attach a thin, sheet-like battery to your laptop, it's possible to effectively double its battery life during each computing session. Tablet batteries may only need an infrequent re-up now that most hold a 10-hour charge, but you can easily charge while staying productive when you connect your tablet to a charging dock.

Learn About These Features & Capabilities To Find The Right Tablet

As we integrate tablets into our work lives, family time, and recreational activities, we grow to rely on the many innovative features and capabilities they offer. To ensure that you're buying a model that fits your lifestyle and price point, compare the options below.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



High-End Tablets

- These models have powerful processors that prolong battery life, allow efficient multitasking, and speed up mobile Web browsing
- You'll find the largest screen sizes in this category—they can range anywhere from 8.9 to 12.5 inches
- In terms of storage, 32GB and 64GB are standard capacities but select models max out at 128GB

Mid-Range Options

- Most popular operating systems are loaded onto mid-range tablet models
- HD displays, cameras with 2 or 3MP, and built-in video recording capabilities are common tablet features in this price range
- Stay connected to the Web using Wi-Fi and mobile broadband, such as 3G/4G, from wireless service providers

Entry-Level Models

- On-board memory typically tops out at 8GB but there are a few budget-friendly tablets that offer more
- Most low-cost models only support Wi-Fi connectivity and aren't compatible with 3G/4G cellular data networks
- Screen sizes for the lowest priced tablets are 7 inches on average; they don't exceed 10 inches

GOOD NEWS FOR A BAD BREAK

Your phone slips, your drink spills or the kids crack your screen. When accidents happen, repairs can be frustrating and expensive.

**GEEK SQUAD® PROTECTION WITH
ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE FROM HANDLING
COVERS YOU IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS
LIKE DROPS AND SPILLS.**

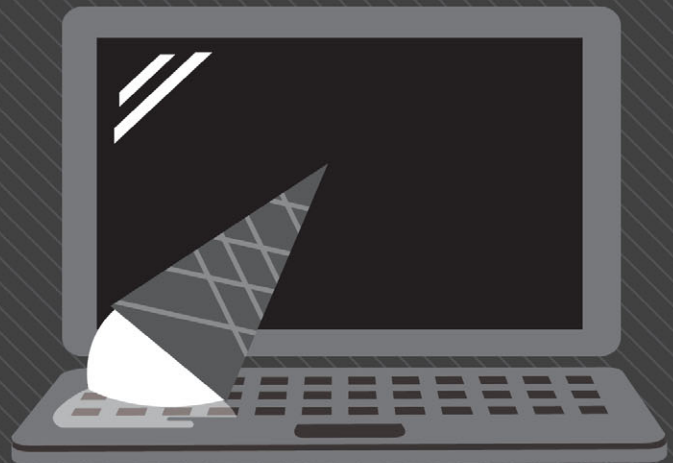


21%

of tablet owners who
paid for accidents
spent over \$100¹

1 IN 3

desktop computer owners
have paid money to deal
with accidents¹



PROTECTION WITH ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE FROM HANDLING

Repairs are on us, even after an "OOPS."

Accidental Damage from Handling covers damage as a result of unexpected and unintentional drops and spills that arise from normal usage of the product as the manufacturer intended. Abuse, misuse and fraud are not covered. Geek Squad Protection plans available at a variety of prices and coverage levels. See full terms and conditions for a complete description of coverage.
¹ All data composed for Best Buy by Kelton Research. © 2013 BBY Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved.

Speed Up Your Computer With New Components

Upgrade Your PC

If you've noticed that your desktop has slowed in performance, it may be time to upgrade some of its components. Installing an SSD, more memory, and a new graphics card are a few things you can do to maximize your PC's capabilities.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Solid-State Drive

You'll get the most bang for your buck by installing an SSD, if your PC doesn't already have one. A large (128GB+) SSD can take the place of your hard drive, while a smaller SSD can act as a cache to accelerate your hard drive's data accesses. Either way, the very fast reads and writes of an SSD can make your PC feel much livelier.

Memory

RAM stores the data of the OS and software currently running on your PC. While you can get by with 4GB of RAM, 8GB is better if you run several big programs at the same time. Video editors and serious gamers can benefit from even more RAM, but typical users won't notice any difference from the extra memory.

Graphics Card

These days most PC systems have integrated graphics that process the visuals you see on your monitor. But when you upgrade to a dedicated graphics card, you can take your gameplay to an entirely different level. For example, you can increase detail in digital environments, while in-game motion will be more fluid (faster frame rates).

Power Supply

A PSU (power supply unit) delivers power to your desktop PC's components. Although 500 watts of power may be enough for a standard PC, you might need a stronger PSU if you install additional or upgraded components, such as a graphics card. A new PSU may also support a new CPU or make your PC more energy efficient.

Learn All The Reasons Why An All-In-One PC Goes Beyond A Desktop

Desktop computers can take up a lot of space. Besides the system itself, you'll need room on your desk for a monitor, keyboard, and mouse. All-in-one computers, however, offer the same functionality in a space-saving, often portable, design.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Trim Body

An all-in-one's components are built into a thin base or a case that looks like a PC monitor. Connectivity and peripheral features, such as Wi-Fi, USB ports, and a disc drive, are also built into the body of an all-in-one. Because they're versatile, all-in-ones are ideal for a college student's dorm room, a kitchen, a workshop, or a child's room.

Touchscreen

If your all-in-one has a touchscreen, you'll be able to control it by using intuitive finger gestures. For example, with the touch-sensitive Windows 8, you'll be able to surf the Web and use applications by touching the screen. An adjustable touchscreen may also make it easier for you to read, play games, and edit photos.

Video & Audio

Many all-in-one computers have screens that are 20 inches or larger (measured diagonally), allowing you to enjoy online entertainment such as streaming video, games, or Web site content. Built-in speakers can provide quality audio for a more immersive movie or music entertainment experience.

Cut Some Cables

All-in-one PCs typically include built-in Wi-Fi, so you won't need to run an Ethernet cable to the system for Internet access. Without being tied down to a wired network, you can place a compact all-in-one in a number of different locations. You'll also have fewer cables to disconnect or reconnect when you move the system.

PC Gaming Headphones

Audio Advantages

The right PC gaming headset can give you a competitive edge with directional audio cues and instant communication with your teammates. And of course, it can also let you immerse yourself in your games without disturbing the rest of your household.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Many gaming headphones come with an adjustable microphone for online chatter.



Surround Sound

Enemies to the right, enemies to the left, and who knows what is sneaking up behind you? Gaming headphones with discrete or simulated surround sound let you hear exactly what's going on. In fact, many players say that a good surround-sound headset provides more distinct feedback than a set of surround speakers.

Microphone

Multiplayer gaming demands teamwork, whether you're raiding a dragon's lair or storming a militant compound. Essential to your success is clear communication, so many gaming headphones come with an adjustable microphone for online chatter. A mic with a noise-canceling feature will give you the clearest results.

Connections

Gaming headsets connect to your PC through either wired or wireless means. Wired headphones typically plug into a USB port on your computer. Wireless models, on the other hand, transmit to a special USB adapter. These cable-free headsets may use Bluetooth or other wireless technologies for lag-free, reliable performance.

Personal Taste

Choosing a set of headphones is a very personal decision. A headset that sounds good to you may not be someone else's first pick, and vice-versa. Likewise, you may find a particular style more comfortable than others, such as an over-the-ear or earbud model. Your local electronics store may let you try before you buy.

With So Many Touch-Based Devices, It's No Secret That Apps Are Everywhere

If you use a tablet, smartphone, laptop, or all-in-one PC (or if you use all of them), it's more than likely that you use numerous apps every day. Apps receive updates and improvements frequently, so be aware of new trends and familiarize yourself with app changes.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Apps On Tablets

Now that tablets straddle both business and personal use realms, many apps have added helpful features such as cloud-based backups, account syncing, and password protection. You can use productivity apps to get things done at work, while at home your tablet can double as a second screen when you watch TV shows.

Apps On Phones

The app as we know it originated on the small screen of the smartphone. Today, there are thousands of apps available to help you accomplish, organize, enjoy, manage, listen to, and watch just about anything. Apps also offer simple ways to stay connected to others via social media, texting, and video chatting.

Apps On AIOs

All-in-one computers (which could now be considered the “big screen” of app interfaces) are becoming increasingly more app friendly. The latest AIOs can transform from the traditional upright position to a slate-style large “tablet” to a wall-mountable display, all with a cutting edge, app-based operating system.

Apps On Laptops

Touchscreen apps are appearing not only on standard laptops, but also on convertible laptops (hinged models that can swivel and fold backward). Because you can use the latter type of laptop in various modes or positions, such as tent, tablet, or stand, you're able to interact with a broad range of entertainment, business, and gaming apps.

Get A Wired Connection Anywhere In Your House

Powerline Networking

A wireless network may have “dead spots” in particular areas of your home. Wi-Fi can also let you down when you’re watching online video or playing a multiplayer game. Powerline networking gives you an easy way to have a reliable connection in any room.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Powerline also gives you the freedom to use your computer in any room with an AC outlet—simply plug in an adapter.



Computer Connections At Top Speed

Walls, structural beams, and other obstructions can interfere with a wireless signal, cutting your PC’s Wi-Fi to a fraction of its speed. Powerline, being a wired network technology (it uses your home’s electrical wires as cables), maintains much higher performance throughout your home. Powerline also gives you the freedom to use your computer in any room with an AC outlet—simply plug in an adapter.

Streaming Video Without Interruptions

Smart devices bring Internet video to your home theater. From your home router, Wi-Fi often isn’t consistent or fast enough for steady HD streaming, unlike a wired network connection. At the same time, you don’t want unsightly network cables lying around and tripping people. You could hire a professional to hide cables in your walls, but it’s much less expensive (and less disruptive) to install a pair of powerline adapters instead.

Online Multiplayer Gaming Without Lag

Game consoles and PCs let players pit themselves against online opponents or play cooperatively with friends. Unfortunately, Wi-Fi introduces a slight delay into Internet connections. It may not bother you when you’re surfing your favorite sites, but it can be the difference between victory and defeat. That’s why gamers need a wired network—and powerline is the most convenient kind of wired connection around.

Choose The Ideal PC For Your Computing Style

Make It Your Own

Everyone seems to want a tablet these days, but new owners quickly find out that a tablet is more of a complement to a computer than a replacement device. Let's break down the benefits of each type of PC, so you can choose one that fits your lifestyle.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Like an Ultrabook, a traditional laptop provides great computing power with wireless Web access.



On Ultrabooks

This new laptop category has plenty of attractive qualities, such as a longer battery life and a sleek mobile design. They also contain powerful multi-core processors. Some models can wake up from deep sleep and launch apps in a flash thanks to SSD storage. Certain Ultrabooks even feature a touchscreen for hands-on computing.

Laptop Benefits

Like an Ultrabook, a traditional laptop provides great computing power with wireless Web access. That said, a laptop may cost less because it's physically thicker and bulkier. Additionally, some of the latest laptop models now feature a convertible design, allowing you to "fold" the device into tablet mode or back into laptop mode.

About All-In-Ones

An AIO's display contains all the parts of a desktop PC that would normally reside in a separate case. An AIO lets you type on a full-sized keyboard, and it accepts the precision input of a mouse for delicate tasks such as photo retouching. That said, some AIOs come with touchscreens for easy, tablet-like navigation.

Desktop Details

A desktop PC comes in a case, and it may connect to a separate monitor via a cable. Its advantages include affordability and broad support for upgrades. A stationary PC such as a desktop or an all-in-one invites you to set up an ergonomically correct computing area with a supportive chair and proper desk height.

Copy, Save Docs & Preserve Old Photos Using Personal Scanners

Although you might assume scanners are only good for one thing, they actually have a number of features that make them useful for various tasks. Read on to learn about new and standard scanner capabilities, including image capture, photo enhancements, and more.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

All-in-one printers, which include scanners, usually have both an automatic feeder and a flat glass scanning surface.



Pick A Type

Two main styles of scanners available today are the flatbed and sheetfed types. The former are akin to copy machines: you open a lid and lay a document flat on the device's glass to scan it. Alternatively, sheetfed scanners work a lot like printers: you place a document to be scanned in a tray, and the machine pulls it through while scanning. Note that AIOs (all-in-one printers), which include scanners, usually have both an automatic feeder and a flat glass scanning surface.

Take It With You

For on-the-go use, some sheetfed scanners are compact and can easily fit inside a briefcase. Handheld models are no bigger than a three-hole punch, and they can scan a document to create a high-resolution image with a single pass. Some models have built-in memory card slots, so you can scan and save images without using a computer. If you need to quickly scan receipts, paperwork, or business cards, a portable scanner is a great solution.

Enhance & Add Effects

If you want to dig up family photos for a restoration project, a flatbed scanner offers a convenient way to scan and digitally enhance old photos. Specifically, some scanner models offer photo correction for issues such as faded colors. And, if you're working with old slides and negatives, there are models that can scan them using a built-in transparency unit. That way, you can touch up and enlarge the photo memories you've saved for decades.

Draw Intricate Illustrations Using A Digital Pen & Graphics Tablet

Whether you're a professional designer ready to graduate to advanced tools, or you're improving your illustration skills independently, you'll benefit from the control that a graphics tablet and digital pen give you. Learn more about every creative possibility below.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

A spacious interactive tablet area allows you to sketch, draw, paint, and express yourself using multiple media.



Draw & Write With Great Accuracy

Consider the tablet as your canvas and the pen as your paintbrush while you use your imagination to get creative.

- A spacious interactive tablet area allows you to sketch, draw, paint, and express yourself using multiple media.
- Using an artistic stylus—with paintbrush bristles, for instance—gives you the tactile freedom to stroke the tablet display and watch colorful works of art crystallize in front of you.
- Try working with a digital pen to add custom embellishments and personalized notes to your own photos.

Pair A Tablet With Creative Software

Some graphics tablets are packaged with software that enables you to take your design projects to the next level.

- Use your favorite software applications or learn new programs that can help you create illustrations as if you were using natural media.
- With professional-grade drawing tools and various brush types, you can feel comfortable sketching and editing in a DIY capacity.
- Color palettes, mixer palettes, brush styles, and calligraphy options let you experiment in versatility.

The Ins & Outs Of The Latest Mobile Tech

Go Convertible

If you've noticed an influx of acrobatic laptop and tablet designs in the tech market, you're only starting to scratch the surface of the new "hybridized" mobile computing devices. To demystify these new product types, we explain some common features below.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

The latest, cloud-based operating systems can sync files among your PC, laptop, tablet, and/or online storage.



When Keyboards Meet Touchscreens

Until recently, keyboards were primarily built into laptops and touchscreens were meant for tablets. But thanks to the introduction of convertible models—a melding of laptop and tablet components and features—you can have the best of both worlds: A device that offers the capabilities of ultrathin laptops and the functionality of a tablet interface. This hybrid device lets you type using the keyboard *and* interact with apps by tapping the touchscreen.

An Operating System For Everyone

As we communicate, create, and work on increasingly more sophisticated mobile devices, operating systems have adapted to meet our on-the-go user needs. For instance, the latest operating systems are cloud-based, which means you can sync files among your PC, laptop, tablet, and/or online storage.

As for hardware, look for features such as extra ports, a super slim design, and a removable or adjustable touchscreen.

There's More Than Meets The Eye

Expect to find many of the following specifications and features on a convertible computing device:

- Front- and rear-facing cameras
- A solid-state drive (SSD) for storage or data caching
- Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity
- HD video ports

USB Flash Drives & External Hard Drives Let You Back Up Your Data

As you accumulate more media on any computer, it's a wise idea to back up all of your song, video, and photo files so you don't lose them. Depending on your lifestyle needs, you'll find portable storage devices that offer different capacity, style, and security options.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Back Up For The Long Haul

Mainly used as backup drives for laptop and desktop computers, portable hard drives can also be used to add capacity to DVRs, network storage systems, and more. These add-on storage units built on 2.5-inch hard drives are slim enough to slip into your notebook bag or pocket, yet they can hold up to 2TB of your data. Thus, they give you an easy way to bring your music collection with you on vacation or to tote high-resolution design materials to a business meeting. Most portable drives use the USB 2.0 interface, but you should keep an eye out for drives with the new USB 3.0 connection. When used with a USB 3.0-compatible port and cable, the new interface will help external drives run faster than ever. It's backward compatible with USB 2.0 and 1.1 ports, too.

Carry Files Wherever You Go

Flash memory devices are common widgets that are both recordable and erasable. They range in size from a fingernail to nearly a credit card, but they're all extremely pocketable. Flash drives are generally built much tougher than any hard drive, and nearly all have USB 2.0 or 3.0 connectors. They can store 16, 32, or 64GB of data or more, depending on the model, so they see a lot of use as informal backup devices for works in progress, important documents, and so on. They can also be used as data transfer mechanisms for moving photos, presentations, video clips, and more between computers. When you're over at your mother's house, for instance, you'll be able to take home copies of her photos from the most recent family gathering.

There's A QWERTY Board To Suit Every User

Keyboard Types

A computer peripheral staple, the keyboard is an essential item for any computer user. That's why it's imperative to choose a model designed to fit your needs. Take a look at what makes wireless, ergonomic, and gaming models special.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Adding a wireless keyboard to a computer will prevent clutter and tangled wires when you have limited space.



Unleash Your Board

Adding a wireless keyboard to a computer will prevent clutter and tangled wires when you have limited space. There's also the added benefit of being able to walk away from your desk and use the keyboard to control media playback—some models can operate up to 30 feet away from your computer. Setup is simple: Plug a small USB nano transceiver into your computer and you're in business. Because the board is battery-powered, you'll eventually need to replace its battery.

Type With Comfort

If you spend long periods of time at your computer, an ergonomic keyboard is an ideal peripheral. These models are designed to promote a healthier body posture, which can help minimize muscle strain and other problems such as carpal tunnel syndrome. Many boards split and angle the positions of their QWERTY keys to create a more natural alignment for your hands, wrists, and shoulders. Soft touch keys and built-in wrist rests also provide additional comfort.

Get Your Game On

The look and feel of a gaming keyboard can be very different from a traditional QWERTY keyboard, but it's optimized to deliver the best gaming experience possible. Features such as mechanical key switches and an ultra-quick response time will help you nail every keystroke with comfort and efficiency. Additionally, some gaming models have special keys for navigation, multiple gaming modes, and sequential keystroke support.



Protect Your System From Unexpected Power Spikes

Surge Protectors

By plugging your computer into a surge protector, you can prevent damage caused by electrical surges or spikes. Over time, power surges can shorten the life span of your computer equipment, but a surge protector will absorb any increase in electrical current and shield your system from potential harm.

Perfect For: Computer users who want to protect the performance of their PCs and laptops.



Back Up & Store All Of Your Valuable Digital Assets

External Hard Drives

With an external hard drive, you can back up your photos, videos, and other important files so you'll still have them if your computer crashes. You can also offload large files from your system to make your computer run more efficiently. Use a portable or desktop drive, according to your needs.

Perfect For: The photography enthusiast or videographer who needs to regularly back up and save files.



Choose One To Match Your Computing Needs

Mice

To better fit your computing style, mice are available in ergonomic, wireless, programmable multi-button, and mobile designs. Some models even use special tracking technologies to let you mouse on surfaces that standard mice can't, such as glass, granite, and carpet.

Perfect For: Anyone who doesn't prefer to use a trackpad or touchscreen to interact with a desktop or laptop system.



Produce High-Quality Documents At Home & On The Go

Printers

With features such as mobile printing, borderless photos, faxing, scanning, copying, and more, today's printers are built to offer convenience. And with a Wi-Fi-capable model, you won't be constrained by a cable connection, so you can place it wherever you want in your home or office.

Perfect For: Any busy family that needs an all-in-one device that can operate as a copier, scanner, fax, and printer.

Cover The Basics

As computer technologies change, new models are released. To ensure that you stay on top of the latest advancements, here are some common questions and answers about next-generation computer features and capabilities.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



What are the differences between a tablet and a convertible laptop?

Common to most popular tablet models is the slate-style design, which features only a touchscreen display. Alternatively, a convertible device combines the keyboard of a laptop with the touchscreen of a tablet. Convertibles typically include a hinge that lets you fold, swivel, or twist the display for productivity or entertainment use. You may see the term “hybrid” interchanged with “convertible,” although hybrids generally feature detachable keyboard and tablet pieces.



Is there a type of printer that's both multifunctional and small enough to travel with me?

Yes, you're looking for a portable printer. What separates this type of printer from home office or all-in-one printers is its ability to print documents and photos, usually wirelessly, almost anywhere and in a timely fashion.

Which computing products allow me to stream video and audio via the cloud?

Because Wi-Fi connectivity comes standard with most mobile computing devices, cloud-based streaming is more ubiquitous than ever on laptops, tablets, eReaders, and even all-in-one PCs (however, some desktops still rely on a wired Ethernet connection). You can access video and audio content via apps, online storage sites, or other Web-based accounts shared across multiple devices.



What devices can I use to store files when I've exceeded my PC's SSD capacity?

You can use what's called a NAS (network-attached storage) device. Dedicated to cloud storage and file sharing, a NAS device offers a single location from which multiple network users can access files. Choose a capacity such as 4TB, 8TB, or 12TB and you'll have plenty of space.

Can an all-in-one PC have features similar to a tablet's?

Yes. Some all-in-one PCs feature a multimedia-optimized touchscreen, like a tablet's touch-sensitive display. In addition to this similarity, unique all-in-ones with an adjustable viewing angle make it easy to read a book, watch a movie, or play a game.

Computers & Tablets

Shopping for computers, mobile devices, accessories, and the like can be daunting, especially if you're unfamiliar with much of the complex terminology. Here, we'll explain some of the must-know terms, so you can be a tech-savvy user.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

#

802.11ac, 802.11n, etc.

Wi-Fi has come in different formats over the years, all named for their backward-compatible technical standards such as 802.11a, b, g, and so on. Currently, 802.11n (Wi-Fi N) supports wireless network speeds up to 450Mbps per device, while the new 802.11ac supports up to 1300Mbps.

A

all-in-one computer

A PC that encompasses every component in a single, towerless unit that looks like a monitor. Typically AIOs are thin, making them ideal for small spaces. Many have built-in Wi-Fi capabilities, so you won't need to connect the system to an Ethernet cable for Internet access. It's also common for portable models to feature touchscreen controls and convertible displays.

B

Bluetooth

A short-range wireless standard that connects devices such as computers, phones, game console controllers, headsets, and digital cameras so they can be used together without being connected physically with a cord.

M

mobile broadband

A communication technology, also known as 3G or 4G LTE, that uses cell phone towers to connect devices to the Internet. Generally, you need a service contract for mobile broadband, and it's not available in all areas.

N

Near Field Communication

More commonly known as NFC, this wireless technology enables smartphones and similar devices to communicate with each other via radio frequency. One device can exchange data and transfer content to another device in close proximity.

O

operating system

The software, such as Windows 8, Android, iOS or Mac OS X, that controls a computer and its peripherals and serves as the primary interface for users.

R

RAM (random-access memory)

A type of memory that holds data a computer is currently using.

U

Ultrabook

An Ultrabook is a sleeker, thinner upgrade from a traditional, standard-spec laptop. Ultrabook models typically feature rapid response technology (quickly wakes from sleep mode), aluminum chassis, and enhanced multitasking performance. Many Ultrabooks may also feature solid-state drives, long battery life, and touchscreen displays.

USB 3.0

The most recent external bus interface standard for transferring data to storage drives. When using a USB 3.0 connection to copy files or perform a backup, you should notice faster speeds overall. USB 3.0 also recharges device batteries faster, and is backward-compatible.

W

Wi-Fi

This is the common name for 802.11 wireless networking with computers, tablets, smartphones, game consoles, and certain TVs and digital cameras. A wireless router or access point provides a Wi-Fi "hotspot" for network and/or Internet access. To connect a device to a new hotspot, type in the network's security passphrase using your device (usually a one-time process).

From Advanced To Basic Models

Stereo Decks By Price

When shopping for a car stereo deck, it's worthwhile to consider a model's features in addition to its price. By matching a model to your lifestyle needs, you'll get the deck that can provide the soundtrack to many an adventurous car ride.

PORTABLE DEVICES

High-end stereo decks are packed with more than just high-end audio offerings.



High-End Systems

For the best of the best in car technology, high-end stereo decks are packed with more than just high-end audio offerings. They can include:

- An LCD touchscreen with built-in GPS navigation
- DVD and MPEG-1/-2 video format playback
- Built-in Bluetooth to make and receive hands-free phone calls

Mid-Range Models

In addition to what a basic receiver has to offer, stepping up to a mid-range deck will typically give you:

- An LCD screen that displays song titles, artist info, and more
- Satellite radio with an additional tuner installed
- Compatibility with additional music file types such as AAC, and disc types such as CD-RW

Basic Stereo Decks

Unlike a car's factory-installed radio, you'll find that basic stereo decks offer more features to enjoy, such as:

- A CD player that is compatible with MP3 data discs
- An aux and/or USB port so you can connect media devices to listen to content via your car speakers
- A remote control to let those in the backseat choose the tunes

Make The Road Safer & More Fun

Kid-Friendly Car Tech

As you or your teenager hits the road, there are a number of devices that can help make the drive safer. And for those kiddos who are just along for the ride, there's plenty in the way of in-car entertainment to help keep them happy. Here's a look at what's available.

PORTABLE DEVICES

By providing some in-car entertainment, you can shift your children's focus off a long drive.



Look Out For Little Ones

Driving your car in reverse isn't as simple as moving it forward, and it introduces a number of possible hazards. A professionally-installed rearview camera lets you see what's behind your car from many different angles, so you can spot children at play or other vehicles and safely back up. Most cameras mount to your car's license plate and connect to your A/V system's monitors. They're also built to be weather resistant and provide optimal viewing at night.

Entertain On The Road

No matter if you're driving cross-country to visit Grandma or around town to tackle errands, kids can easily become restless while on the road. By providing some in-car entertainment, you can shift their focus off the long drive. DVD players and monitors are available in flip-down, overhead configurations; as built-in headrest models; and as portable players (you can find the latter for Blu-ray discs, too). In-dash decks can also play DVDs, other video, and music.

Prevent Distraction

Once your teenager has been granted the freedom to drive on her own, you can make sure phone calls don't become unnecessary distractions with a Bluetooth headset or speaker. One of these devices will help her to keep her hands on the wheel and her eyes on the road, even if she needs to take or make a phone call. What's more, some Bluetooth headsets also offer texting capabilities with speech-to-text features.

Hands-Free Music, Talk & Navigation

Bluetooth Headsets

If your smartphone or other mobile device supports Bluetooth, you can pair it with Bluetooth-capable headphones for personal audio enjoyment on the go. You'll be able to enjoy hands-free music, phone calls, podcasts, Internet radio, GPS directions, and more.

PORTABLE DEVICES



Compatibility

There are a lot of Bluetooth headset options on the market, so your first step is to find a model that works with your smartphone, MP3 player, or other portable device. Look for a model that supports your device's Bluetooth version or higher, such as Bluetooth v3.0, and special profiles such as AVRCP (Audio/Video Remote Control Profile).

Basic Specs

If you only plan to use your headset to make phone calls, a mono (single-ear) model should be fine. For music playback, opt for a stereo headset. You'll need a built-in microphone for voice calling, of course. Another factor is how long the headsets' battery will last during use (talk time) and in standby mode.

Notable Features

Some headsets include special features such as a setup mode to make the initial pairing with your device easy. Many will let your phone automatically send calls to your headset. Mobile apps are supported by select headphones, which gives you capabilities such as voice control over your social networking updates.

Clarity & Comfort

Audio quality is important: You'll want to hear and be heard clearly during phone calls, and you'll want your music to sound great. Noise cancellation and sound isolation features can help. As for comfort, most earbud-style headphones come with soft tips of different sizes, so you can use the ones that fit the best.

Create New Rhythms, Lose Weight & Get Fit

Motivating Gadgets

If you seek health and fitness success, consider one of the devices below. They all offer personal Web accounts where you can view your history and progress, giving you an extra kick to meet your goals. Some even work with popular mobile operating systems.

PORTABLE DEVICES



Sleep Better Than Before

We all need adequate sleep to feel our best. However, the quality of your sleep is just as important as the amount. To take steps to improve your slumber, you can wear a sleep device to monitor how long you spend in different sleep cycles and how often you wake, and to show you your data in graphical form.

Track Your Fitness Goals

To get an accurate picture of your activity level, wearing a light and discrete fitness tracking device will do the trick. Basic models offer LED messages or icons to motivate you, whereas advanced trackers have touchscreens to deliver precise data such as your time, distance, speed, calories burned, and position.

Manage Your Weight

You no longer need a pen and paper to keep a detailed record of your weight progress and goals. Digital scales with wireless capabilities can record your weight and display your history on a tablet or smartphone. Some scales can also upload your data online so you can access it from any Web device.

Watch Your Blood Pressure

Rather than wait for your next doctor's visit to get a blood pressure reading, you can get precise readings at home with a blood pressure dock. To get detailed information that's automatically tracked, simply connect an mobile device to the dock, wrap the dock's pressure cuff around your arm, and press start on your device.

GOOD NEWS FOR A BAD BREAK

Your phone slips, your drink spills or the kids crack your screen. When accidents happen, repairs can be frustrating and expensive.

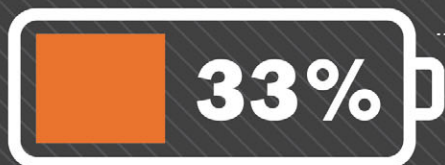
**GEEK SQUAD® PROTECTION WITH
ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE FROM HANDLING
COVERS YOU IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS
LIKE DROPS AND SPILLS.**



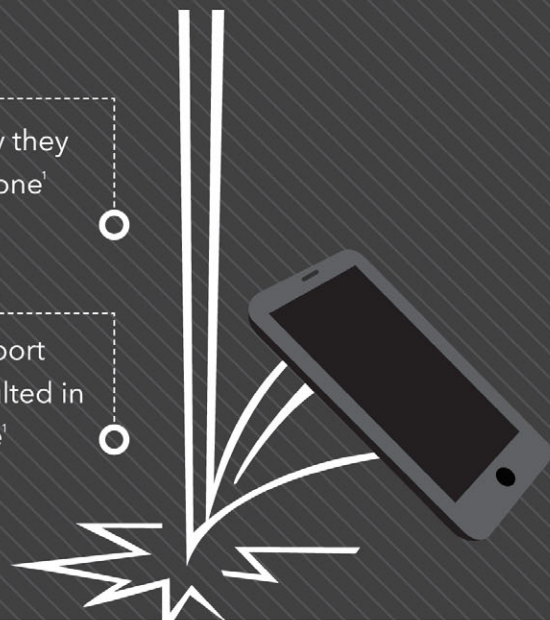
have accidents with their portable
music player at least once a month¹



of smartphone owners say they
are likely to drop their phone¹



of smartphone owners report
having accidents that resulted in
a cracked screen or worse¹



PROTECTION
WITH ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE FROM HANDLING

If you make a mistake, we'll make it all better.

Accidental Damage from Handling covers damage as a result of unexpected and unintentional drops and spills that arise from normal usage of the product as the manufacturer intended. Abuse, misuse and fraud are not covered. Geek Squad Protection plans available at a variety of prices and coverage levels. See full terms and conditions for a complete description of coverage.
¹ All data composed for Best Buy by Kelton Research. © 2013 BBY Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved.



Enjoy Multimedia With Better Audio Quality

Headphones

Tablets, MP3 players, and smartphones unlock plenty of audio and video for on-the-go entertainment. To make the most of it, pair your device with a set of headphones that fit your specific needs. For example, you can block background sound with a noise-canceling pair or listen for long stretches of time with a comfortable over-the-ear model.

Perfect For: Those who value the highest entertainment experience possible, even when it's on a smaller screen.



Safeguard Your Device From Wear & Tear

Smartphone & MP3 Player Cases

We frequently carry devices with us to communicate or play media, and it's wise to outfit them with a protective case. You'll find smartphone and MP3 player cases made from different materials, such as acrylic, rubber, or leather, and with useful features such as belt clips, wrist straps, and built-in screen protectors.

Perfect For: Anyone who wants to keep their phone or MP3 player in good working order for the long haul.



Make Your Portable Device Last Longer

Chargers & Cables

No matter what type of portable device you have, a dying battery can be a major inconvenience. A portable charger solves this issue, letting you power your device in the car to make important phone calls, surf the Web, or play media. Add a compatible cable, and you'll be able to connect and play media on other devices. For instance, some devices can connect to an HDTV via an HDMI cable.

Perfect For: Those who want a more versatile portable device.



Unleash Content From Your Media Player

Docks & Speakers

From simple speakers that connect via a headphone jack to audio docks you can insert your device into, there are many accessories that can play portable device audio for all to hear. Some docks double as alarm clocks while others can simultaneously play tunes and charge your device's battery.

Perfect For: Those who want to wake up to a portable device playlist or share audio with groups of people.

Cover The Basics

It's not always easy to keep up with the latest on-the-go A/V devices, but you can get ahead of the tech learning curve if you do your research before you shop. We address some of the most common portable device-related questions below.

PORTABLE DEVICES



What are the benefits of wearing an app-enabled digital watch?

Also known as “smart watches,” app-enabled digital watches connect to your smartphone (via Bluetooth pairing, typically) and let you receive timely notifications, control music playback, and customize the way you interact with particular apps.

How does a Bluetooth-enabled MP3 player differ from an MP3 player that features Wi-Fi connectivity?

An MP3 player with Wi-Fi connectivity uses a wireless connection (provided by a hotspot or in-home network) to access the Internet. Bluetooth is short-range wireless technology to connect with headsets and other devices.



Can I get a dock that will work with multiple types of MP3 players?

Yes, some speaker docks will accommodate multiple models and sizes of a particular brand of player. These usually come with adapters that snap into the dock so that your player will fit correctly.

What options do I have if I want to listen to satellite radio in my vehicle?

Aside from buying a new vehicle with a built-in satellite radio receiver, you can install a satellite radio tuner that plugs into your car stereo (this may require an installation professional) either directly or with a vehicle kit. With a vehicle kit, you're able to enjoy satellite radio programming after you connect the tuner to your stereo via FM transmitter, auxiliary cable, or other compatible adapter.



How can I get my smartphone to play music through my car speakers?

Depending on the model of smartphone you have, you could use any number of audio adapters to play your own songs or stream music from a Web-based app. For a wired connection, any smartphone with a 3.5mm headphone jack can connect to a stereo's or vehicle's built-in auxiliary port via a cable. If you prefer the convenience of wireless audio streaming, find a stereo head unit that supports a smartphone-to-stereo deck Bluetooth pairing.

Portable Devices

Smartphones and MP3 players share a lot of things in common, including terminology. To better understand these devices, read on to become acquainted with some of their features, capabilities, and specifications.

PORTABLE DEVICES

A

AAC

Short for Advanced Audio Codec, this format is a competitor of the more common MP3 file format. It is the default format used by Apple.

B

Bluetooth

A wireless technology, supported by some MP3 players, that connects devices with short-range radio frequencies.

C

capacity

How much data a smartphone or MP3 player can hold. This is typically expressed in gigabytes or megabytes. Generally speaking, 1GB will hold about 250 songs.

D

download

In terms of digital music, downloading is when you retrieve a song from an Internet site or another network connection and save it to your computer or portable music playing device. You can also download

apps to play games, use productivity tools, reference information, and much more.

E

earbuds

Small, egg-shaped speakers you place in your ears so you can listen to audio from your portable device. These serve the same function as headphones. Many smartphones and music players include their own earbuds, but you can purchase a separate pair that is more comfortable or of better quality.

F

flash memory

Solid-state memory that is lightweight and small with no moving parts. In terms of digital music players, a flash-based player is lighter and smaller than a hard drive-based player, and also, it won't skip. Thus, flash-based players are popular for use during exercise. However, the capacity of a flash-based player isn't as large as a hard drive-based player.

FM tuner

If your music player has a built-in FM tuner, you will be able to listen to music, news, and weather info broadcast from local radio stations.

I

inline mic

A remote microphone built into the cables of some headsets. An in-line mic lets you select and play audio files on your device, answer incoming phone calls, make outgoing calls, and mute your voice.

M

MP3

Perhaps the most popular audio encoding format. It compresses audio to about one-twelfth the original size while still providing excellent sound. In general, a 1MB to 2MB MP3 file will last about one minute.

P

podcast

A downloadable audio episode that is similar to a radio program. A user can subscribe to a podcast for updated episodes, or she can download podcasts one at a time.

W

widescreen

A screen with a 16:9, 16:10, or similarly wide aspect ratio.

Find Material That's Appropriate For Your Kids

ESRB Game

RATINGS & DESCRIPTIONS

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) Ratings

In order for parents to select gaming software appropriate for their children, ESRB (www.esrb.org) ratings are listed on the front and back of most game packages to provide concise and impartial details about a title's content.



Early Childhood

- May be suitable for children ages 3 and older
- Doesn't contain material parents would find inappropriate



Teen

- May be suitable for children ages 13 and older
- May contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, or infrequent use of strong language



Everyone

- May be suitable for children ages 6 and older
- May contain minimal cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and infrequent use of mild language



Mature

- May be suitable for persons ages 17 and older
- May contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content, or strong language



Everyone 10+

- May be suitable for children ages 10 and older
- May contain more cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence/language plus minimal suggestive themes



Adults Only

- Only suitable for persons 18 years and older
- May include prolonged scenes of intense violence, graphic sexual content, or nudity

For additional information, ESRB ratings on the back of game packages include content descriptions and depictions.

Gaming For Parents

Aside from checking a game's ESRB rating, there are other ways you can ensure the games your youngsters are playing are age-appropriate.

- Look at the game graphics on a title's packaging.
- Find game reviews, screen shots, or demos to get a better idea of a game's content.
- If available, use a game's parental controls to restrict content.
- Talk to other parents and children who are familiar with or have played certain titles.
- Participate in your children's gaming and discuss their games as much as possible.
- Be aware that some game titles may contain material that's not ESRB rated. For example, "mods" are program downloads that can alter a game's content. Many games also use the Internet to connect with other players, and this opens the door to live player chats as well as other user-generated content.

Get Into Your Games With Controllers & More

Gaming Accessories

It's more fun to play games with controls that feel natural. We've divided the following controllers and other accessories into console and PC categories, although some of them are available for both types of systems.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

Get your body into the act with motion gaming controllers, a motion sensor, or a balance board.



Accessorize Your Game Console

- Get your body into the act with motion gaming controllers, a motion sensor, or a balance board
- A wheel/pedal combo makes racing games more realistic
- A gun attachment makes your controller easier to aim
- A recharging station organizes controllers as they charge
- A game chair with built-in speakers or a subwoofer lets you hear and feel every audio cue
- Musical instrument controllers make rhythm games rock

Trick Out Your Gaming PC

- A gaming mouse means precise control and quick reaction
- A gaming keyboard won't let you down when you need to press several keys in rapid succession
- A gamepad lets you play with a console-style controller
- Headphones or powered surround-sound speakers let you hear the game world (and opponents) around you
- Flight simulator controls help you fly like an ace
- Storage options hold your game discs and controllers

Home Monitoring Lets You Keep An Eye On Things

Thanks to increasingly intuitive home surveillance equipment, you can see what's going on inside or outside your home, day or night. Networkable home monitoring systems let you check on things using your smartphone or any Web-connected computer.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE



Vacations

You'll be able to have a more relaxing time on vacations or business trips when you can keep an eye on the home front with indoor and outdoor cameras. Even the sight of cameras can reduce the risk of a break-in, and so some vendors sell false (but realistic-looking) cameras you can install to discourage bad guys.

Who Can It Be?

The doorbell only rings when you're busy. A camera system can tell you whether it's a pizza delivery or a solicitor. And should you hear a noise at night, you won't even have to get out of bed to see what it is. When you have a camera with night vision, you can be assured that the clamor downstairs is nothing but your cat.

Kids & Pets

It's too quiet. . . What are your kids up to? A quick glance at your phone reassures you that the baby's still asleep and the older kids are playing quietly together, for once. As for your retriever, perhaps you don't quite trust him to be home alone. With surveillance, you can periodically check in to make sure he's not being naughty.

Deliveries

Online tracking tells you that a package has been delivered to your home. What it doesn't tell you is whether the delivery person put it behind the bushes (good) or out in the open for anyone to see (bad). But thanks to your Internet-accessible camera system, you can spend your lunch break with friends instead of going home to check.

Capture Impressive Gaming Moments In Real Time

Gameplay Recording

Whether you want to record your in-game achievements or stream gameplay live to show your opponents who's boss, a game capture device lets you document and share your virtual accomplishments. Here's how you can freeze those awesome moments forever.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE



Relive It All

Because the latest gameplay capture devices record in Full 1080p HD, you'll get to experience every stealthy FPS move in vivid, crisp detail. When you complete a difficult level, unlock a coveted new item, or find an Easter egg hidden by the game developers, you'll have high-resolution proof at your fingertips. Note that some recorders only work with specific consoles or PCs. Also, several new game consoles feature built-in gameplay recording and even sharing.

Add Your Commentary

Maybe your goal is to create a tutorial (walkthrough) for other gamers. If so, choose a model that lets you add voiceovers to recorded gameplay or instant commentary during live streaming. You don't have to remain a legend in your own mind: Connect to a community-based gaming platform that makes it easy for you to stream, watch, and chat during real-time gameplay. Your mastery of complex moves won't go unnoticed when you record each success.

Immortalize Your Skills

Can't wait to share that epic moment when you beat the ultimate boss? You don't have to. You can immediately upload recordings to YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites. Alternatively, you can use your preferred video editing software to produce a more professional cut. Aside from bragging about your imposing skills, you can create amped-up gaming reviews by including your own play-by-play videos.

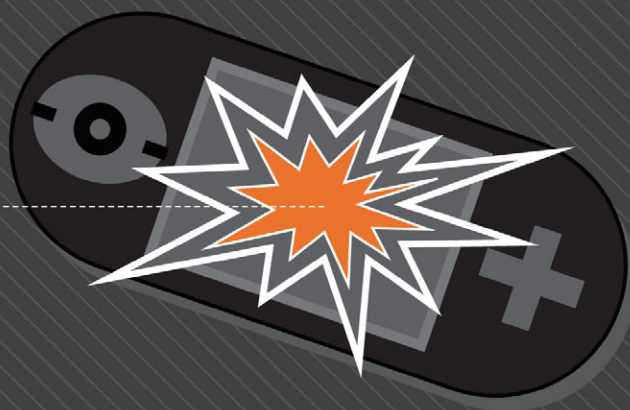
GOOD NEWS FOR A BAD BREAK

Your phone slips, your drink spills or the kids crack your screen. When accidents happen, repairs can be frustrating and expensive.

**GEEK SQUAD® PROTECTION WITH
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COVERS YOU IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS
LIKE DROPS AND SPILLS.**



portable gaming
console owners
say they are likely
to drop it¹



27%

of camera owners
who paid for accidents
spent over \$100¹



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When you're your own worst enemy, we'll be your best friend.

Accidental Damage from Handling covers damage as a result of unexpected and unintentional drops and spills that arise from normal usage of the product as the manufacturer intended. Abuse, misuse and fraud are not covered. Geek Squad Protection plans available at a variety of prices and coverage levels. See full terms and conditions for a complete description of coverage.

¹ All data composed for Best Buy by Kelton Research. © 2013 BBY Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved.

Take Command Of Your Entertainment With New Game Consoles

All three major gaming systems have new versions on the market (or at least available for pre-order). Of course, there's far more to the newest consoles than just gaming, so let's take a look at potential features of your next digital entertainment platform.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

Of course,
there's far
more to the
newest
consoles
than just
gaming...



Game Improvements

Some new consoles have a touch-screen or touchpad on their controllers for an innovative way to interact with games. The touchscreen—or another mobile device, depending on the console's capabilities—can duplicate what's on your TV, or even present an alternate view of the game. Certain controllers can even act as portable game consoles! The new systems have better motion gaming, too. Moreover, you'll spend less time waiting for game and update downloads.

Massive Media

All of the new consoles support 1080p Full HD resolution for crisp detail in games, movies, and TV shows. Some can play Blu-ray and DVDs, but all can stream video from various online services. New consoles make it easier than ever to find something to watch, with powerful media search capabilities and channel guides, depending on the system. Some tie into your cable or satellite programming and DVR as well as online sources.

Other Enhancements

The new systems are much better at multitasking than their older siblings. With a split screen or picture-in-picture, consoles now let you do more than one thing at a time, such as video calling or chatting during a movie. Some systems even let you run the show with voice commands.

Finally, game recording and social features let you share your live or recorded gameplay with your friends and family online.



Sit Down & Get Into Your Games

Gaming Chairs

Comfortably play for the long haul with an ergonomic gaming chair. While you can settle for a basic model, consider the extras that can help take your gaming enjoyment to an entirely different level. For instance, built-in speakers with adjustable volume and sound-responsive vibrations will work together to make you forget you're sitting in your living room.

Perfect For: Gamers who want to fully immerse themselves in the game but maintain maximum comfort.



Game With The Fastest Data Speeds Possible

Dual-Band Wireless AC & N Routers

To enjoy HD games or videos from your game console with the best wireless experience, you need a dual-band 802.11ac or 802.11n router. Some offer extended wireless ranges for an optimal signal, even in large homes. You might also be able to connect USB printers and hard drives to the router to let anyone wirelessly print or upload files via the network.

Perfect For: Gamers who want an instant, lag-free response during online gameplay and media playback.



Get A Better Grip On The Way You Want To Game

Gaming Controllers & Add-Ons

A game console might only include one controller, so you'll need to purchase more unless you always play solo. You can also choose controllers that better match your style: There are many different designs and colors. And to make your games feel more realistic, you can supplement select controllers with add-ons, such as a steering wheel, baseball bat, or crossbow.

Perfect For: Those who want to go head-to-head with others in a game or add some personal flair.



Immerse Yourself In Another World

Gaming Headsets

Communication is key to many collaborative online gaming situations, so a headset with a microphone is a natural fit. With a headset, gamers can chat with multiplayer teammates during squad play or a raid and hear crucial sound cues more clearly for quicker response times and higher scores.

Perfect For: Gamers who want to keep their ears trained on the game and have an unobtrusive way to communicate.

Cover The Basics

When it's time to relax with a videogame, a movie disc, or streaming media, this article can answer your common questions. We'll also cover some miscellaneous products that you might find highly useful.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE



Besides gaming, what kind of entertainment does a game console offer?

Most game consoles can play DVD and even Blu-ray movie discs. And with an Internet connection, you can stream movies, TV shows, and audio to your console. Certain systems even offer you advanced media search capabilities and video calling features.

How can I connect my game console to the Internet?

There are three main methods. You can run an Ethernet cable from the console to your router; use two powerline adapters instead of a cable; or connect your console to your router's Wi-Fi network (preferably AC or N).

What is motion gaming?

Motion gaming lets you control a game by moving your body, not just pushing buttons. For example, you can play golf by swinging a controller, just like you're holding a real golf club. Some game consoles even let you play motion games without a controller.

How can I make my gaming more fun?

A big HDTV or projector can make your games as big as life. Likewise, a good surround-sound audio system will put you right in the middle of your game world. Accessory game controllers, like a steering wheel or balance board, can also help you get into the game.

What are some benefits of a home monitoring system?

You can use your smartphone, tablet, or PC to see who's at the door, how your child is sleeping, whether a package has been delivered, and more. Best of all, you can check on your home over the Internet from anywhere.

What can a gameplay recorder do?

This device lets you record your achievements and victories in a game, as well as make walkthrough tutorials to show others how to succeed. Some new game consoles have gameplay recording and sharing built-in.



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